

THE ABSTAINER.

ORGAN OF THE GRAND DIVISION OF THE
SONS OF TEMPERANCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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EDITOR:

Fidelity,--Union--Perseverance.

{ JAMES BARNES,
PUBLISHER.

VOLUME I.

HALIFAX, N.S., OCTOBER 15, 1856.

NO. 1.

Essays, &c.

FIRST PRINCIPLES.

The following constitute the platform of the United Kingdom Alliance. We adopt them:—

I.—That it is neither right nor politic for the State to afford legal protection and sanction to any Traffic or system that tends to increase crime, to waste the national resources, to corrupt the social habits, and to destroy the health and lives of the people.

II.—That the Traffic in Intoxicating Liquors, as common beverages, is inimical to the true interests of individuals, and destructive of the order and welfare of society, and ought therefore to be prohibited.

III.—That the history and results of all past Legislation, in regard to the Liquor Traffic, abundantly prove that it is impossible, satisfactorily to limit or regulate a system essentially mischievous in its tendencies.

IV.—That no consideration of private gain or public revenue can justify the upholding of a system so utterly wrong in principle, suicidal in policy, and disastrous in its results as the Traffic in Intoxicating Liquor.

V.—That the Legislative Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic is perfectly compatible with rational liberty, and with all the claims of legitimate commerce.

VI.—That the Legislative Suppression of the Liquor Traffic would be highly conducive to the development of a progressive civilization.

VII.—That rising above class, sectarian, or party considerations, all good citizens should combine to procure an enactment, prohibiting the sale of Intoxicating Beverages, as affording most efficient aid in removing the appalling evil of Intemperance.

HOW SHALL WE DO IT?

It is agreed on all hands that we are to labor in the direction of prohibition. This is the goal to be reached. How are we to get there? A consideration of the ways and means is important. We often waste our efforts through inattention to modes and methods of action. Of two men having in view the same object, that one will be more successful, who makes the better selection of means, and applies them, with greater intelligence and skill. The science of success is founded on the adaptations of means and ends.

1. We must agitate. We must keep the subject before the people. We must show up the rum-maker and the rum-seller. We must expose to the public gaze, in figures, the cost of this traffic. We must get right before

the eyes of the people, the statistics of the crime, pauperism, and rowdiness, that have no other origin than the liquor-traffic—and keep them there. We must make them believe that it is the father of curses—the malicious pool which generates the plague that is reducing to rottenness our national body. The people are not dead. We are not called upon to effect a resurrection. They are only asleep and need but to be awaked. The mighty electric power of truth, as wielded by an earnest and able press, and by eloquent and indefatigable lecturers, must be brought to bear upon their minds. Then they will bestir themselves and do honor to their manhood.

We have not lost our confidence in the integrity and right-mindedness of the people. The night is dark, but we confidently believe that the day cometh. If the appropriate means are used, and used with life and spirit and soul, and with faith and patience and perseverance, our triumph is sure,—and a triumph here will be worth ages of fighting. When the doctrine of prohibition shall be universally established, so that every intoxicating liquor shall be sold under the same restrictions, as strychnine, a loftier monument will be reared to the memory of the noble army who have fallen in the struggle with the monsters, Cupidity and appetite, than that which crowns the heights of Bunker. We say then, let every grand division establish and sustain within their limits an able and straight-forward and manly journal and employ a lecturer of commanding talent, the ablest that money can enlist in the service, and then work with him and through him—keeping the ball rolling up and down and around their state until the blessed revolution is consummated.

2. We must never go to the ballot-box without carrying our cause with us.

It may not always be expedient to nominate a special ticket; circumstances will determine that. It is obviously inexpedient except when we are strong. But we should never allow other questions to throw this altogether into the shade. There is and can be no question of state concern of equal magnitude with it, as there is none which so vitally touches the public virtue, peace, and prosperity. The monster intemperance, spreads its blight over a far greater breadth than the former, levies a heavier tax upon property, produces more crime, and disorder and ruin, debases and debauches more human beings, causes wailing and lamentation in more dwellings and sends more souls to an everlasting perdition. No intelligent and sober minded man will question this. Why should we ignore this great public evil at the polls? It can only be reached and removed by law,

and the ballot-box makes law. Legislators are mere puppets moved about on our State-House floors by it. We must not be out-generated by crafty politicians. We must not be deceived by specious argument against carrying moral questions into politics. We must not be frightened by the anathemas of unprincipled men. In most of the townships of our Northern, and in many of our Southern States, the genuine temperance men hold the balance of power. If they cannot carry their own man to the capitol, they can secure the nomination of a prohibitionist by some party, if they have pluck and backbone—in other words, if they stand firmly by their principles, steadfastly refusing to vote for any man as a law-maker who is not in favor of law to suppress a business viler than any other, and more destructive to every human interest than all others.

3. We must keep our local divisions in working order.

As these occupy the ground under which the old district and County Societies lie buried, temperance can find expression only through Societies. The temperance influence of a community will not be felt if it floats about in drops that do not touch each other. It must be gathered up and embodied in some living and working form. A vast amount of labor is devolved upon the Divisions by the exigencies of the times. They should charge themselves with the business of seeing that temperance men, whether in or out of the Divisions, attend the primary meetings for the selection of Candidates. They should see that petitions for a prohibitory law are circulated at the proper time, through all the school districts of the State. They should attend to the raising of funds for the support of the Temperance press and stamp. It is to be feared that we do not understand our mission. We have been remiss, and our cause has suffered in consequence. We meet, go through with our routine and adjourn. We lay no plans for aggressive warfare. We strike not a blow at the foe. Our weapons lie rusting in our armory. The kind of work alluded to above must be performed in order to move the car of prohibition from its present dead stand. Who will not do it if we, through indolence or apathy leave it undone!

The necessities of our own life demand that we should do it. We cannot, as an Order, have a vigorous existence without work. We are dying because we do not work, and our great cause is languishing because we are dying. Let each division set on foot some plan for out-door activity, and we venture to say they will prosper and grow and be in health, and this great beneficial reform will move on majestic as the Sun in his course.—Crusader.