

In view of the magnitude and fearful prevalence of this great social curse, the promoters of the Alliance, encouraged by the earnest and successful efforts of the friends of temperance in America, have initiated their special movement, and in support of which they especially desire and solicit the sympathy and co-operation of your Conference, and of all other Christian denominations throughout the land. The Alliance does not aim to regulate and limit the traffic in intoxicating liquors, but seeks to prohibit, by law, their sale altogether for purposes of common beverage. All previous legislation in this country, in regard to the traffic, has proceeded upon the assumption that it is an evil to be tolerated under certain restrictions, which is the theory of the license system. The Alliance proceeds upon the principle that it is an evil which should be suppressed or removed altogether.

It is very generally admitted that the present license system is ineffective, at least for good, and has proved to be a failure. The *London Times* says, "It is a dead letter, as far as public morality and order are concerned." The *Non-conformist* says, "It is no longer a question of morality, but of revenue." The *Morning Chronicle* says, "It is fundamentally vicious." A peer of the realm, in a public meeting at Exeter Hall a short time since, said, "He believed that if Beelzebub himself had been Chancellor of the Exchequer, he could not have devised any means more calculated to destroy the bodies and souls of men than the licensing system." But not only have the press and the more intelligent portion of the public condemned the license system; many of the magistrates, to whom its administration has been committed, have also denounced it. This was especially the case at Liverpool, where the entire bench of magistrates was so impressed with the enormity and complication of mischiefs growing out of the license system, that a committee of the House of Commons was suggested, and through Mr. Brown obtained, for inquiring into the evil, and the devising of a remedy. The result of the labors of that committee has been to confirm the opinion so widely entertained as to the ineffectiveness and injurious character of the discretionary issue of public-house licenses; but, not being prepared to adopt, in the present state of public opinion, the prohibitory principle, the parliamentary report recommends that the magistrates should be entirely relieved from the responsibility of exercising any discretion as to the number and situation of places licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors, certain other definite checks and restrictions being imposed on the traffickers. Should this recommendation be adopted, we feel assured that, whatever modification of feature the evil may present, it will still exist, and permeate society with a frightful leaven of corruption.

We are persuaded that nothing short of legal prohibition can ever accomplish the end we seek, and that the removal of the snares and temptations to drinking can alone secure a sober population. If we are to have any legislation on this question, we believe ours is the only safe, thorough, and equitable principle on which to base it. Nor is this a mere matter of speculation and theory. In America the Maine Law has now been in operation for several years, and has not only realized the expectation of its friends, but most signally falsified the predictions of its enemies.

Ample evidence has been produced to prove the following points:—That the law is popular with the large majority of

the people; that the longer and more stringently it is enforced, the less prospect there is of any repeal; that wherever it has been adopted and put in force, it has proved a very great blessing to the community, lessening the amount of intemperance to a wonderful degree, diminishing two-thirds of the pauperism and crime, curtailing the expenses of society, and greatly promoting the general order, thrift, and good morals of the people.

We speak as unto wise, God-fearing and patriotic men; and if we have succeeded in gaining the attention of the Conference to the momentous questions and interests involved in the subject, we are not doubtful as to the issue of the deliberations on which they may enter, and the response they will feel it their duty to accord.

In conclusion, we may be permitted to remind a Wesleyan Conference that their world-revered founder, JOHN WESLEY a century ago, saw very clearly, and denounced most emphatically, the essential immorality of the traffic in alcoholic beverages; and in his writings and public addresses, boldly appealed to the legislature to stop distillation by prohibitory enactment. Nor were his noble exertions fruitless in his own day, as on several occasions, in times of scarceness, the legislature did prohibit all distillation from grain, thus preventing the food of the people from being converted into poison, and made the means of their temptation, impoverishment, and ruin.

Commending this great question to the solemn consideration of the Conference, and earnestly praying that all their deliberations and resolves may be dictated and guided by the spirit of truth, we remain, esteemed and reverend sir, on behalf and by order of the General Council of the United Kingdom Alliance, yours most respectfully and fraternally,

WM. HARVEY, Chairman.

41, John Dalton Street, Manchester, Aug. 2, 1864.

#### Non-Committal Answer of the Conference.

The Secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance received the following letter in acknowledgment of the above address forwarded to the President and Minister of the Wesleyan Conference:

"Wesleyan Conference, Birmingham, Aug. 11.

"Sir, Your communication, addressed to the Rev. Dr. Hannah, the secretary of the conference, was duly received; and in acknowledging the receipt of it I am instructed to express the sense which the conference entertains of the kindly and respectful manner in which you have brought before it a subject confessedly very difficult and of great importance.—I am, sir, yours respectfully.

J. BEDFORD."

EVERYWHERE THE SAME.—"Wine is a mocker," not in this circle or that, in this country or the other, merely—but among all classes, in every country, and in all generations. We have been much interested in listening to the relation of facts, gathered by Mr. Delavan, during his European tour, illustrative of this. Here is one: he was informed by the Duke of Orleans, then commander-in-chief of the army of France, that the regulation of the army was one bottle of wine per diem, to each soldier—making 400,000 bottles daily, and 146,000,000 bottles yearly. The drinking of this, he added, caused a desire for more, and most of their pay was expended in procuring additional quantities, from the influence of which originated most of the insubordination of the army.—*Prohibitionist*.