

THE PEOPLE versus THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

I.

A STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE NORTH-WESTERN
CONVOCAION OF TEMPERANCE WORKERS AT LAKE BLUFF,
ILLINOIS, AUGUST 27, 1881.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Some months since I received a letter from our mutual friend, Dr. Jutkins, in which he requested me to deliver an address at this Convocation. I replied that I should attend the Convocation, but preferred to remain silent, as a learner at the feet of older men. Another letter gave me to understand that no excuse would be accepted, therefore an address was prepared for this occasion; but, since coming upon the grounds, I have heard much which leads me to think it better to leave the manuscript, and talk to you as one worker to other workers, on the present aspects of the reform.

I shall talk to you plainly, positively; and if I bore you, charge it to Dr. Jutkins, for he alone is responsible for my appearing before you.

In discussing the question of temperance, one fact more than all others I would impress on your minds at the commencement; that is, that this question must be settled in this country. It cannot be laughed down, sneered down, jeered down or blackguarded down, and there is not money enough in the blood-stained coffers of the liquor power of this nation, to buy enough votes to long prevent the entire defeat of the liquor oligarchy at the hands of this people.

This statement may be considered over-sanguine, and yet, ladies and gentlemen, it seems to me that the man or woman who insists that this great movement is a mere temporary excitement, must be blind.