THE LIFE BOAT.

Dialogue.

DRUNKENNESS—THE MAINE LAW, &c.

(CONCLUDED.)

James.—Dear papa, I was very much interested,—and I hope instructed,—by your late remarks upon the evils of drunkenness. Your reasonings, and especially the illustration intended to show that the trade in liquors is the cause of drunkenness, appear to me so conclusive, that I am at a loss to imagine how they can be resisted.

Papa.—My boy, after you have lived a little longer in the world, you will find that truth is not always so successful as in your present simplicity you are ready to conclude. Self interest, or rather false conceptions of the nature of true self interest, more properly designated selfishness, together with a pusillanimous fear of ridicule, and other equally base and unworthy motives, operate to thwart and retard the progress of truth in relation to the subject before us; but of one thing we may be certain, that "truth is mighty, and shall prevail."

James.—I suppose that the people of Maine have got tired of coaxing the manufacturers of liquor to give up the business, and so have passed the famous law which puts it at last to a dead stop.

Papa.—You are right: the State of Maine, with most, if not all the other States, have for many long years employed what is called "moral suasion," that is, persuasion, to induce people to give up making, selling and drinking intoxicating liquors. Their success has been great; but they have learnt by experience, that there are men incapable of being moved by moral considerations, and therefore, with respect to them, they have given up the attempt; and finding themselves strong enough to use "legal suasion," or, in other words, the power of law, they have enacted the *famous* Maine Liquor Law, as you have very properly called it.