

this pure fountain, whose crystal waters are spent in washing out the stains and the pollutions of the guilty and the debased, and thus are instruments in raising a fallen brother to the elevation of man, as made in the image of his God!

And this, Sons of Temperance, is a most fitting, a most appropriate work for the present day.

We live in an interesting age of the world. It is the glory and the boast of our day, that assistance is afforded to the immortal principle in man, as it struggles to free itself from the trammels and the superstitions of the past; and with truth may it be said, that we live in an age of wonders—of physical, of intellectual, of moral wonders! The agents of darkness seem to be retiring to their native shades before the noon-tide blaze of the powers of light. The world is evidently improving; and, notwithstanding the unsettled state of human affairs—of nations and of kingdoms, both in the old and in the new world,—notwithstanding the burning passion for unhealthy excitements, the tumults and wrongs, and crimes, which prevail to such an alarming extent throughout community, *that* man is truly fortunate, and should consider himself such, who lives at the present day, and whose privilege it is, to aid in carrying forward the great moral enterprises of the age.

Contemplate for a moment the vast moral changes that have been wrought within the last few years. See what has already been accomplished by the mighty energies of the human mind; and this is but the prelude to the future. Such are the labors put forth, and such the success, which crowns the efforts in this onward march of mind, that we cease to wonder at any result in the melioration or elevation of man.

Fifty years ago, nay, thirty, and would our fathers have believed that the change which has taken place, could have occurred in the short space of time that has intervened? The idea, if suggested to them would have been treated as the wildest vagary of a diseased imagination, and the subject of it, a proper one for the mad house, or the lunatic asylum. Since their day, and the light has increased in every point of view; improvement has followed change, and reform succeeded to reform, till man is beginning to assume that elevated position in the moral world he was designed to occupy, and to stand forth before his Maker clothed in something like his original purity.

Among the various and multiplied causes which tend to this happy result, the temperance cause is by no means the least—it has acted a noble part in the great drama of human events. It is now rallying its noblest efforts to the last grand struggle for victory. It is calling aloud for the mightiest exertions of its valiant supporters; and, as a compensation for these exertions, it promises to its supporters and to the world, the health, the wealth, and the happiness of a reformed, a sober age!

And this golden age of temperance, which is ere long to bless the earth, would soon be ushered in with an universal shout of joy and gladness, were it not that the dark rolling stream of intemperance, a tide of moral desolation, is still sweeping over our beloved land, and

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