

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

1 That the facts and testimonies of ancient and modern history, and all experience in every age, and in every part of the world, teach the same great lessons; that the habitual or frequent use of any kind of intoxicating drinks tends to produce habits of intemperance, and to foster vices, crimes and disorder, which are subversive of social virtue, individual integrity, and national prosperity; and that total abstinence is therefore the only true and secure basis of a permanent temperance reformation.

2 That the drinking usages of society present the most formidable barrier to the progress of education, religion and true civilization, and that it is therefore, the imperative duty of the religious community, and especially of all teachers, moralists and ministers, to lend their constant and utmost influence to aid the Temperance Reform, by inculcating the practice of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, as the only safe and effective means of producing national sobriety.

3. That experiments and discoveries of physiological science, confirming observation and experience in all climates, have clearly demonstrated that alcohol has no dietetic value, but that its use as a beverage in any form or to any extent is injurious to the body and mind of man.

4. That the progress of medical science and experiments, have exploded many theories on which the prescription of alcohol has been heretofore based, and has demonstrated not only its non-dietetic character, but also its non-medical value in a large range of diseases.

5. 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 rational resources, to corrupt the social habits, and to destroy the health and lives of the people.

6 That the traffic in intoxicating liquors as common beverages, is inimical to the true interest of individuals, and destructive of the order and welfare of society and ought therefore to be prohibited.

7. That the history and results of all legislation in regard to the liquor traffic abundantly prove, that it is impossible satisfactorily to limit or regulate a system so essentially mischievous in its tendencies.

8 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 results, as the Traffic in Intoxicating Liquors.

9. That the Legislative Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic is perfectly compatible with national liberty, and with the claims of justice and legitimate commerce.

10 That, rising above sectarian and party considerations, all good citizens should combine to procure an enactment, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages, as affording most efficient aid in removing the appalling evils of intemperance.