

question is one which can no longer be ignored, nor dodged, nor burked, but which demands and will have fair play and honest settlement. And you may set it down as assured that, when professional politicians confess a moral and social issue to be real, the time of its triumph is not afar off.

I declare to you that nothing in the whole history of our Reform causes me more amazement or fills me with greater hope than this magnificent forward march of our plain and simple cardinal ideas.

Fifty years ago they had scarcely a foothold in the Anglo-Saxon world. Never in the whole range of history was there a delusion so widely and strongly entrenched as that Alcoholic Liquors were necessary and useful, and the traffic in them right and beneficent. In the palace of the king, and the cot of the humblest, great was Alcohol, and greatly to be praised.

Without him no home was complete, no hospitality perfect, no ceremony entire, no undertaking auspicious. From the cradle to the grave his was the indispensable and accompanying genius.

Then arose these two simple and despised tenets,—“Alcohol is an enemy to the individual life ; banish it ”—“Alcohol is an enemy to the State ; outlaw it.”

They grappled with this Giant Delusion of Ages. They let go no hold. They marched right on. They have entered homes, schools, churches, and legislatures, and, wherever they have entered, they have made their abode. To-day they dominate millions of lives, and influence, if not control, Legislation, in every English-speaking Parliament. Defeats have but added determination, success has nourished wider hopes, and instead of resting on laurels gained, these two principles meditate no less than the conquest of a world. And who that observes the wonderful past dare say they shall fail ?

*2. The opinion of the masses in regard to Alcoholic Liquors, has been almost completely reversed.*

Fifty years ago if you had gathered together 10,000 persons from the masses of the people, and questioned them, *nine* out of the *ten* would have answered, “Alcoholic Liquors ? Why, they are necessary for health, helps to endurance, essential to pleasure, and indispensable for all proper hospitality.” But the schoolmaster has been at work since then, information has been furnished, thought aroused, and conclusions arrived at. Now, if you were to select at random 10,000 people of all classes, and question them, *nine* out of *ten* would answer : “Alcoholic Liquors ? Why, they are injurious to the healthy system and breeders of disease ; they are fatal to feats of en-