

the population is a drunkard. Years ago the indications of intemperance were noticeable at every public gathering. Forty years ago drunkenness and bloody affrays were common at all large gatherings. Now it is not unusual for 10,000 people to assemble at a State fair, or on like public occasions, with scarcely an intoxicated person to be noticed. Throughout the rural portions of the State, embracing three-fourths of the population, drunkenness is rare; indeed, within ten years the most marked improvement has taken place in the habits of the people respecting the use of intoxicating liquors. Doubtless the law has contributed largely to bring about the present healthy sentiment of Maine, but the fact that public men of influence have advocated total abstinence has done vastly more to educate the public conscience and build up the public sentiment in favour of temperance.

4. *In the efforts to emancipate our Dominion from the liquor-traffic, our main dependence, under God, must be on Christian agencies of the Evangelical churches.*—It was the gospel of Christ, in its beneficent sway, that abolished the slave-trade. It was the Christian spirit in Prussia, since the consolidation of the German Empire, that swept away the gambling-hells of Baden-Baden and other German watering-places. It is the Christian spirit of Britain that has kept the law for legalizing vice (in force in Paris) from spreading beyond British garrison-towns. It is the Christian spirit of Puritan England, speaking in such men as Bright and Gladstone, that has kept at this critical and trying time England from yet another attempt to fight for Islamism,—whatever it may do for its *own interests*. It was the keen Christian foresight of Knox, who cried out that the axe must be laid to the root of the tree that saved his country from the hopeless task of trying to reform the Church of Rome. To the evangelical churches of the Dominion, its pastors, its members, must the country look for the spirit, and the perseverance, and the wisdom, and the love that is to win in the great conflict with strong drink.

The evangelical churches of this land constitute the heart of