

efforts, otherwise we shall appear to be healing slightly the deep, ragged, ulcerated wound, which is seated so deeply in the system of our social frame.

I know, indeed, that I am only at the beginning of the difficulties surrounding this question, nor can I attempt to do more than touch upon one or two, which suggest themselves at the very outset.

If it is conceded to me that a pledge is allowable, and that it may be well to band together the pledged abstainers in an association, there at once comes forward the question, "will a Temperance Society, composed only of reformed drunkards be possible"? The answer to this must be, "No." And then we ask, who else shall be associated with them? Now the object of a Temperance Society is not only to reform the fallen, but to prevent, by God's permission, the recruiting of the ranks of the army which is already so painfully large.

The best way to prevent drunkenness, is to diminish drinking, and a certain cure would be universal abstinence. But I am not so sanguine as to expect such a result, yet we may take some steps in this direction, by diminishing the demand for the intoxicating cup. If the young are judiciously trained to abstain, not so much by compulsion as by moral suasion, it cannot fail to have a good effect. These then might be urged to join with others in this work. But I believe that the true ground to take in this matter, is to have all consider the question conscientiously. Men owe duties to others beside themselves. We are not individuals merely, selfishly to minister to our own wants and likings, but we are also members of a body, we belong to each other, and may either largely help or largely hinder each other. Now there ought always to be some who will be ready to forego what may be their liberty, for the sake of others. If good may be done by the force of example in this matter, ought we not to be ready to afford men and women opportunities for banding together in the Church, to oppose intemperance. I would not lay down "total abstinence," as an universal duty, nor denounce those who do not see their way to adopt it, but if a man or woman conscientiously feels bound to abstain, and further to pledge himself or herself thereto, I