

"CLOUD OF WITNESSES."

Again crops out the commonest of objections. It has proved a failure. The thing has not succeeded where it has been tried. There's as much drinking in Maine and Vermont as ever. Is it really so? Let us prefer to the random rhapsodies of the interested and the ignorant, the matured judgments of the leaders of the people.

Governor Washburn, of Mass., in his Inaugural of 1872, says:—"Let Prohibition be rigidly enforced and crime and pauperism will be removed 50 per cent, a great burden of taxation would be removed from all citizens, a new impetus would be given to every branch of legitimate industry, a heavy weight would be lifted from the hearts and hands of our labouring people, and a most important step taken toward their permanent elevation and improvement."

In Governor Dingley's Inaugural to the Legislature of Maine, on the 8th January, 1874. He says:—"This system has had a trial of only 22 years, yet, its success, in this brief period, has been, on the whole, so much greater than that of any other plan yet devised, that Prohibition may be said to be accepted by a large majority of the people of this State, as the proper policy towards drinking houses and tippling shops. It would be unwise for any one to claim that Prohibition has entirely suppressed, or can entirely suppress the dram shop. That is no more possible than for human enactments to entirely prevent theft, robbery, arson, or even murder. Indeed, any effective enactments against practices which are exceptionally profitable, and at the same time, pander to men's appetites and passions, are peculiarly difficult of thorough enforcement, as has always been found the case with Statutes prohibiting gambling-saloons and houses of ill-fame, as well as drinking-houses and tippling-shops. The true test of the merits of such Legislation is not—whether it entirely up-roots such practices—but, whether, on the whole, it does not repress them as effectually as any system that can be devised. In more than three fourths of the State, especially the rural portions, public sentiment has secured such an enforcement