

abstinence Societies have done a great deal towards preventing the spread of the plague. Legislative enactments are found to work well in some instances, though the efforts are necessarily local. The plan of providing a substitute for the bar-room, in well appointed coffee-rooms and reading-rooms for the working classes has been largely and successfully adopted in the old country, and we are glad to know that in at least one of our large cities, Toronto, an enterprise of that kind has been initiated under most favourable auspices and with good hopes of success. While gladly recognizing every agency that is in any way helpful to the removal of intemperance and the many evils that flow from it, we fear there is little hope for any thing like a universal reformation until men are led to regard drunkenness as *a sin*, and not merely a mistake which it is expedient to remedy.

Prohibition.

MR. W. E. DODGE of New York, in a paper read before the Second General Presbyterian Council at Philadelphia, makes the following statements:—"In the city of New York there are 10,000 places for the sale of intoxicating drinks. In the United States there are 5652 distilleries, 2830 breweries, and 175,266 places where intoxicating liquors are sold, involving a direct outlay and waste of not less than \$700,000,000, and an indirect loss to the country of crime and pauperism of \$700,000,000 more. To this annual financial loss add the destruction of not less than 100,000 lives. The 10,000,000 barrels of beer sold last year would have filled a canal twenty-one feet wide and five feet deep, extending from New York to Philadelphia (90 miles), and it would take a pump throwing thirty gallons a minute, running night and day over twenty-one years to pump it out. It was all swallowed, however. This vast business and terrible loss have all grown up under the fostering care and license of the National and State Governments. Three-fourths of all murders, crime and pauperism directly result from the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicants. The remedy of total abstinence and prohibition is the only thing, under God, which can stay the pestilence. Wherever it has been faithfully tried it has been successful. The experiment in the State of Maine has been eminently successful, notwithstanding the rum interest has ridiculed it and tried to prevent its adoption in other States. The State as a whole is a temperance State. Before the passage of the prohibitory law, Maine was a drunken State. There was one drunkard to every fifty-five of her population. One million gallons of spirits were distilled

annually, and her liquor bill was ten million dollars yearly. Now there is not a distillery or brewery in the State. The secret sale is only a small fraction of the former quantity sold, and the death rate from drunkenness has been reduced from one in every fifty-five to one in three hundred of her population. In Vineland, N. J., with a population of over ten thousand, the inhabitants of all shades of politics have united in banishing all intoxicating drinks. There has not been a criminal case there within twelve months. St. Johnsbury, Vt., is called "a working man's paradise"—a village with all the aspect of a garden; in which many of the workmen own their houses; a village of five thousand inhabitants, in which every man accounts it his highest duty and personal interest to observe the law. No authority is visible in St. Johnsbury; no police walk its streets; there is nothing for a policeman to do."

By way of contrast, Mr. Dodge lifts the veil and discloses what may be seen any Saturday night in the slums of New York, where the rum shops are crowded by the working classes and where fights "of a more or less ferocious and dangerous character are of frequent occurrence." . . . "We talk of one hundred thousand drunkards dying annually, but have we any just conception of what that means? Did you ever watch the passing regiment on some great day of parade, and did you not tire as you stood seeing the apparently never-ending ranks of the military as they marched? Yet it is not probable that twenty thousand ever passed before you. Suppose these one hundred thousand poor drunkards should pass in procession before you on their way to the grave, what a strange, sad sight! Consider, further, the half million more of wives and children made miserable by the ruin of husbands and fathers, and you will obtain some idea of what this accursed business is doing to destroy body and soul and to fill our land with unutterable misery. . . . Professing Christians have it in their power almost entirely to remove the source of this fearful destruction. Let it be once understood by the men who manage our politics that Christians will no longer support men for office who will license the traffic in intoxicants, there would be no difficulty in obtaining the adoption of the principal of prohibition."

DR. CHALMERS ON INTEMPERANCE

Dr. Chalmers arraigned intemperance in the following words: "Before God and man, before the church, before the world, I impeach intemperance. I charge it with the murder of innumerable souls. I charge it as the cause of almost all the poverty, and almost all the