

pledge administered to greater numbers than that of any other Temperance advocate, but that the pledge which he administered was more universally and faithfully observed.

However interesting it might prove to follow the footsteps of Father Mathew as he travelled from city to city and from country to country, conferring the blessings of sobriety on homes made desolate by drink, I shall leave that grateful task to one of the speakers of to-morrow evening's social celebration, and content myself on this occasion with a few words on the cause which Father Mathew advocated, and on the best means of securing its success.

That cause is Total Abstinence. Total Abstinence is the practice of Christian mortification, and as such must prove agreeable to Him who, from the crib to the cross, led a life of mortification and of voluntary suffering for the sins of men, and who has given self abnegation as a characteristic mark of His true disciple. "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself." We may add that the Total Abstinence pledge faithfully observed is the only infallible remedy against Intemperance. Men of every profession, of every condition of life, and of the highest virtue and strongest will power, have proved victims of the passion of drink, gliding too easily from the use to the abuse of intoxicating liquors.

Let us remember, however, that our cause can never be advanced by exaggeration and at the sacrifice of truth. Though Total Abstinence is an infallible remedy against Intemperance, it does not follow that total abstainers are the only temperate men in the world. Well-meaning Temperance advocates have maintained that the use and sale of intoxicating liquors are in themselves sinful. Neither