

the altar of another home gleams bright with its vestal purity. Yes, there are all over our country ; in farm, in village, town and city, uncounted thousands of noble lives, of sweet, pure homes, of grand, strong characters, and gently pervasive influences, which, in quiet unobtrusive ways, are strengthening and purifying our society, and which are but trophies of the saving power of our Reform. Without its work they would but have swelled the tide of drift and wreckage that ceaselessly pours down towards the deep sea of destruction ; with it, they have become component parts of the great temple of society, beautiful and stately. Only in that day of final summing up, when our quickened senses shall take in the whole scope of human effort and recognize the influences that in each case went to produce the final result, shall we be able to estimate the strengthening, preserving, and saving work of our Reform. Until then this part of its mission shall remain a sealed book, unknown to the multitude, dimly and imperfectly comprehended by the thoughtful few, but ever open and plain to the all-seeing eye of the Infinite one.

Let me now, for a little, attempt an answer to the second part of our subject, viz :—

What has our Temperance Reform Aggressively Gained ?

1. *It has conquered a foremost place among the acknowledged vital and important questions of the age.*

Fifty years ago, when the idea of Total Abstinence and Legal Restriction were mooted, they were almost universally scouted. Men looked upon them as the idle dreams of visionary minds, as the vagaries of fanatics, as brainless shadows that would soon pass away, or a mental mist cloud which the clear dawning of truth would quickly dissipate.

Despite jeers and scoffs, ridicule and satire, curses and arguments, these ideas have continually deepened their hold and widened their sway, until to-day they number their converts by millions. Steadily and irresistibly they have made their way into individual lives, into society, upon the platform, into the pulpit, into the press, into literature, and into the statutes of every Legislative body in the Anglo-Saxon world. No man now disputes their reality ; none but a fool despises their strength ; they are the glory of their friends and the dread of their enemies.

Even the professional politician, whose first care is for himself, his second for the party which shelters himself, and his third for the country, which exists for his party and himself,—even he is beginning to acknowledge that this Temperance