

"Empty a fiddle," retorted Mrs. B., who would have added "stick," but the doctor watching his opportunity, had dexterously popped the tube again into her mouth—not without a fresh scuffle from the patient.

"For the Lord's sake, Ellen;" continued the teetotaler, confining her hand, "do, do, pray do sit quiet."

"Pon—wob—wobble," said Ellen, "hub—hub—bub—bubble," attempting to speak with another pipe in her throat beside her windpipe.

"Have the goodness, ma'am, to be composed," implored the doctor.

"I won't," shouted Mrs. Burrage, having again released herself from the instrument by a desperate struggle. "What am I to be pumped out for?"

"Oh, Ellen, Ellen," said the teetotaler, "you know what you have taken."

"Corrosive salts and narcotics," put in the doctor.

"Arsenic and corrosive sublimity," said the teetotaler.

"Oxalic acid and tincture of opium," added the doctor.

"Fly water and laurel water," said Mr. Burrage.

"Vitriol, prussic acid, and aquafortis," continued the druggist.

"I've took no such thing," said the refractory patient.

"Oh, Ellen, you know what you said."

"Well, What!"

"Why, that your drinking should not trouble me any more."

"And no more it shall," screamed the wilful woman, falling as she spoke into convulsive paroxysms of the wildest laughter. "No more it shall, for I've took—"

"What, ma'am, pray what?"

"In the name of Heaven, what?"

"Why, then, I've took the *pledge*!"

### MEMORIAL.

To the Honourable the Legislature of the State of New York, in Senate and Assembly convened:

The undersigned Executive Committee of the New York State Temperance Society in behalf of that Society, and in behalf of the cause of bleeding humanity, would respectfully *petition* Your Honourable Body, in view of the dire influence of intemperance, multiplying and aggravating beyond endurance "all the ills that flesh is heir to," to prohibit by law the traffic in *intoxicating drinks*, under the sanction of adequate penalties, connected with all necessary provisions to enable the proper tribunals to enforce them.

Although some have ventured to question it, we deem it superfluous to argue the competence of the Legislature to enact any law (which does not conflict with the provisions of the Constitution,) necessary to promote the public weal. We humbly conceive that on the correctness of our conclusion rests the justice of your whole criminal code, every provision of which is in derogation of claims boldly put forth by the transgressor.

May we not then safely assume, that the protection and security of the people in all their important interests is the first and paramount duty of those who make the laws, and administer the Government? If these views are sound—and who will presume to impugn them?—we respectfully submit—That it is obligatory on the Legisla-

ture, by such means as their wisdom may devise, to shut down the floodgates of intemperance, by sealing up with prohibitory laws the fountains that feed them.

That intemperance is the monster-vice, in whose capacious folds are wrapped up almost all the crimes of which the law takes cognizance, is too obvious to demand an argument.

Who, then, can doubt the wisdom of striking one powerful blow at the generic cause of all lesser evils? who will call in question the propriety of anticipating the latent seeds of disease by throwing a sanitary cordon around those who are yet untainted?

By the course we advocate, what an incalculable amount of productive labour would be saved to swell the tide of general prosperity? What untold millions, worse than wasted, would be added to the amount of active capital, to be employed for all the beneficent purposes of human life? While to the public treasury would be saved nine-tenths (we speak advisedly,) of all the enormous expense incurred in the application of the complicated machinery of criminal law to suppress and punish crime. But who will attempt to estimate the value of human life annually sacrificed within this State at the shrine of intemperance?

This terrible foe, more formidable than war, pestilence, and famine, is stalking in our midst, unrestrained by the efforts of benevolence, and unrebuked by penal justice. And yet your memorialists hazard nothing in saying, that those fearful scourges of an incensed Deity, have at no period of our history slain the tithe of those that have in the same time (if we except our revolutionary struggle,) fallen a sacrifice to the monarch of intemperance. Yet with these facts before them, there are those, whose cheeks blanch, and whose knees tremble at the name of *cholera*, who are engaged in administering even to friends and neighbours a far more prolific cause of death, and plead for it the respectability of a lawful business.

If Government was not instituted to abate such evils, by restraining and punishing the guilty agents that controul, and with a recklessness that knows no bounds, dispense them to the unhappy wretches, who, by an insatiate appetite, are drawn within the sphere of their influence, while with fiendish malignity they complete unmoved the desolations they have made; then must your memorialists acknowledge themselves too obtuse to discover the end of its creation or the substantial good it is capable of achieving.

May we not safely appeal to the individual consciousness of every member of your honourable body, that the cause we advocate is of infinite importance, neither local nor ephemeral in its scope, or its duration; not only does it seek to censure in all time to come the highest good of our universal humanity, but contemplates issues that lie beyond the bounds of time, and claims affinity with interests that are eternal.

As an illustration of the importance of our course, we beg leave to call the attention of the Legislature to a new and astounding feature in the statistics of intemperance, recently developed in a neighbouring State. From an official investigation of the subject of idiocy in Massachusetts, it was ascertained that there were fourteen hundred idiots in that State, more than 90 per cent. of whom were the offspring of intemperate parents.