

ficient manner and make the question of Temperance the main issue in the election of the next Legislature.

Resolved, That in our opinion no really vital principle of the Maine Law has been established in the recent judicial decision against the Anti-Liquor Laws of Rhode Island and Minnesota, or in the opinion of the Judges of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire, that the right of a state to protect itself from the evils of Liquor-traffic by a prohibitory law, and the consequent right of seizure and destruction of the contraband article, still remains intact. For the friends of Temperance, therefore, there is no occasion for despondency, for its enemies none for exultation.

The various meetings of different Societies, and Alliances did not close before the evening of the 20th, when the Rev. H. W. Beecher and P. T. Barnum, Esq. addressed the people. Mr Beecher had the State street Baptist Church. The *Tribune* gives a brief sketch of his remarks. He said:—

No little interest induced him to be present. He felt as much interested as he ever had when, on the sacred day, he spoke more directly to perishing men of their spiritual interests. We were about to have a Waterloo battle, but he did not know to whom victory would come, but it would be either for Rum or Temperance. If Temperance men failed it would take twenty years to retrieve the vantage ground already realized. And if we gained, twenty thousand years would not be sufficient for the rum-sellers to recover their position. The Temperance movement commenced about two years before he was born, and he felt proud that his father was the first person to commence it. He briefly reviewed the history of Temperance Reform, and coming down to the subject of the Maine Law, he said, we propose to enact that crime making is criminal.

I don't suppose the Maine Law will work miracles; but a judicious law, one which constitutional and Law rats will not be able to creep out of, will do much to destroy the enormous evil that we have to lament—When society is laboring under great and powerful evils it is right for society to protect itself by penal enactments. All who are commercially interested in it are opposed. Take out these tonight and there would be very little opposition. The money interest is the opposition. When the Devil wanted to make his masterpiece—to do his very best—he made liquor and liquor sellers. The commercial interest has a powerful influence, its roots running beyond conception, and all is arrayed against the law. The presage of victory is first, God is with us—We must succeed. Hundreds of thousands of men have prayed in their closets for this law, and will not be put down. Second, the "sober second thought" of the dispassionate masses is with us. Third, the Church, almost in a body, are for the law. If we are overthrown, the effects will be fearful. But we will not be overthrown. Victory must and will be ours.

Mr. Barnum spoke in the Methodist Church. He explained the nature of sumptuary laws, and showed that the Maine Law is not of that class; that it did not forbid the use of alcohol in any shape, but merely provided that men should not traffic in it—classing it with gunpowder and poison. (Here some disturbance occurred on account of a false alarm in regard to the safety of the building, which had been raised by some vicious person.) Quiet being restored—he showed that the opposition of the rum-sellers was good evidence of the propriety of the proposed law. Their outcry was not occasioned by the fear of the law not being executed, but because they knew it would be executed—not at once in the City of New York, perhaps, but in the course of a few years. The victory in the country would be easy, but where there are large commercial interests, there would be a second battle, and every year we would be gaining. If we got the law, and it stands five years, all would sing paeans in its praise. After a fair trial, if it proves inefficient, then repeal it, but before condemning, give it a fair trial. Legislators who say the people are not ready, have, by their own showing, but little to fear if they pass it, subject to the people's approval. But they know the people would approve it, hence they hesitate to pass it. Easy, luxurious livers, or, as he called them, "Oily Old Fogies," oppose the law. Sporting gentlemen who frequent watering-places—including as they do blacklegs—are opposed to it. Many, but not all, who drink, are opposed.

Success to our New York friends. May they soon get the Maine Law.

Can a Woman Forget her Child?

A little incident occurred the other day which clearly shows the necessity of the Maine Law, as the best means of rescuing the poor and degraded drunkard from the misery he entails upon himself and his connexions, even the dearest by which man is linked to his species. A poor man entered a store in the city, during one of the late severe evenings, carrying very carefully a bundle in his arms, and begging the favor of being allowed to warm himself at the stove. Having seated himself, he carefully unfolded the bundle, exclaiming in piteous language. "Oh! my poor baby!"—The curiosity and sympathy of the young man in the store was excited, and on examination it was found that the poor father bore in his lap a wretched infant, only 4 days old, wrapped up in a heap of dirty rags. His tale was that the mother was a wretched drunkard, who so cruelly used and neglected her child, that he feared he would lose it, and had been obliged to tear it from her and escape to save it. A subscription was immediately set on foot by the persons in the store, to the amount of a couple of dollars, when the poor grateful man went away with his child to procure it some milk; but soon after leaving, was discovered and pursued by the wretched mother, when the police had to interfere to take her to the station and the child to an asylum. Now if we had the Maine Law as the liquor law of Lower Canada, the wretched mother could not have procured the liquor by which she had degraded herself, the man would have been employed in procuring comforts for her and the child, instead of losing his time looking after her, and the woman would have been performing the duties of a mother, in cherishing her offspring and making home comfortable. Who, then, that wishes well to the poor, does not go for the Maine Law?

J. T. D.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Synopsis of letters received in the month of December, seemingly intended for publication in the order of their dates:—

Norwich.—J. B. furnishes another of the many instances of fatal accidents from the use of intoxicating drinks. He says:—"A man of the name of J—A— got drunk on Thursday night, and was found dead at the back of a stump on Saturday. He has left a wife and five children to mourn his loss."

Shannonville.—My name does not stand in your list of agents, nevertheless, I stand amongst your friends—and when I say your friends, I mean the friends of the Temperance cause. Enclosed, I send you the names of five new subscribers for the *Advocate*, and the needful. Now, I see you have about four hundred authorized agents named in the last *Advocate*, now, Sir, if I can provoke them to go and do likewise, I shall have accomplished my object in this short notice.

P. J. R.

Cold Stream Division, No. 18, promises to be a benefit to this part of the Townships, we have every reason to rejoice. Our prospects are encouraging, and when the institution is properly understood, we have no doubt it will become very popular.

E. FINLEY, R. S.

Pickering.—I have presented the subject to a number of persons, sometimes at the close of our week evening services. The ground seems to be very much occupied already by Political, Agricultural, Educational, Religious, and Temperance Periodicals. Our cities and towns abound with monthlies, semi-monthlies, weeklies, bi-weeklies, and tri-weeklies, and every village, of any pretensions, issues a paper of its own. Indeed, I think the market is overstocked. And still they come. Every now and then a new paper is projected, and the patronage of the public solicited. As a matter of course, this tends to circumscribe the sphere of others who are already in the field. The newspaper mania rages to such a degree, that I doubt not a reaction will ensue ere long. The old proverb is, "every new thing has a silver tail." Many persons are so constituted that what is new takes with them: and