

the work of prohibition. It is no untried path we have entered upon. Now, the State of Maine is not very favourably situated for giving this problem a fair trial. It is on the Atlantic seaboard, and its broadside open to Europe; it is crossed by several great railway trunks, connecting it with the west; it is surrounded by other states, in all of which the liquor-traffic prevails; and yet, under these adverse circumstances prohibition is largely and generally successful. As opinions to the contrary are often advanced, it is well that we can here refer to a recent "address before the Maine Reform Temperance Convention, when ex-Governor Dingley took occasion to shew from statistics the progress which has been made in that State during the forty-three years since the temperance movement was inaugurated upon the basis of total prohibition. Governor Dingley has given attention to this subject because it has been announced in several journals outside of that State that there is more liquor drunk in Maine at the present time, and more drunkenness than ever before in the history of the State. In 1832 the Secretary of the Main Temperance Association collected statistics shewing the extent and effect of the liquor-traffic. The population of Maine at that time was 450,000, and there were 2,000 places where intoxicating liquors were openly sold as a beverage, with sales aggregating \$10,000,000 annually, or \$20 to each inhabitant! Last year the town agencies sold \$100,000 worth of liquor for medicinal and mechanical purposes. There are no places in the State where liquors are sold openly, and the friends of temperance estimate that the illegal and secret sale don't exceed \$500,000 a year, while the wildest enemies of the present law do not set the aggregate sales higher than \$1,000,000, less than \$2 to each inhabitant. By this estimate the sale and use of intoxicating liquors are only one-tenth as much as forty years ago, and only one-eighth what they are in the average of the remainder of the Union. The estimate made in 1832 was, that one of every forty-five of the population was accustomed to get "beastly" drunk. At the present time the most careful investigators are confident that not one out of 300 of