

TRIUMPHS OF PROHIBITION.

The *Crusader* furnishes the statements which follow. Let them be carefully pondered.

The opposition to Prohibitory legislation has been steady, persistent, and united in every State where it has obtained. Politicians have denounced it as unconstitutional, and, in many cases, the courts have done all in their power to cripple and obstruct the execution of the law. It has nowhere had a fair chance, and yet the imperfect experiments incontestably prove the value of the law, and show to the friends of virtue that they have not overestimated the good which would result from its universal adoption.

The law took effect in Maine on the 2d of June, 1851, and we find the following results during a stated period compared with a corresponding period previous to its enactment.

Cumberland county jail, in nine months, with the law, had 135 inmates; nine months without the law, 279; difference, in favor of the law, 144, or more than one half. Again, Portland Alms-House, for same period, 146 with the law, and 252 without the law; Portland House of Correction, with the law, 13; without, 58; Watch-house, ten months, 180, against 431; House of Correction, seven months, 8 with, and 34 without the law. But we do not look to Maine alone for reliable and gratifying statistics.

The Prohibitory Law, of New York, took effect July 4th, 1835. The following facts of record show what might have been accomplished but for the interference of political, partisan judges. We give the commitments for the three months previous to the Law's taking effect and the three months subsequent:

| JAILS. | PREVIOUS. | SUBSEQUENT. |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| Ontario | 90 | 45 |
| Erie | 253 | 211 |
| Monroe | 192 | 111 |
| Niagara | 319 | 245 |
| Genesee | 29 | 21 |
| Orleans | 82 | 80 |
| Onandaga | 151 | 103 |
| Seneca | 81 | 28 |
| Cayuga | 103 | 59 |
| Auburn P. R., | 132 | 50 |
| Rochester | 928 | 740 |
| Albany | 2026 | 2577 |
| Syracuse | 966 | 525 |
| Totals | 5353 | 3795 |

In all these localities, every possible trick and device, fair and unfair, were resorted to, in order to render the act a dead letter:

In Connecticut, the law took effect August 1st, 1854. We have before us some statistics of the months of July and August of that year.

| | | |
|--|-----|-----------|
| In July there was committed to the Hartford Work-house | 20 | August, 8 |
| New Haven City Prison in July | 50 | " 15 |
| New Haven work-house | 73 | " 15 |
| Jail and Watch-house | 123 | " 31 |
| New London, C.P., Aug. and Sept. 1853 | 32 | |
| Do do do 1854 | 15 | |
| Totals | 298 | 84 |

What an unanswerable argument in favor of Prohibition!

The Judge of the Police Court at Springfield reported a diminution of drunkenness of more than 75 per cent. In Bangor the commitments for crime sank in three months from

19 to 8. Rev J. H. Champion, of Falls Village, Ct., says: "The diminution of crime here has been more than five hundred per cent, in consequence of the Maine Liquor Law." Rev R. H. Maine says: "In Meriden, Ct., crime has diminished perhaps 75 per cent."

The weight of Judicial authority is decidedly in favor of prohibition. The highest Courts in the eight States, Maine, Vermont, Mass., Conn., Rhode Island, Michigan, Delaware and Ohio, have all unanimously sustained their respective laws, except Michigan, and that with but one dissenting voice. Nor is there a Court from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains that has decided against "prohibition." Even the New York Court of Appeals, which has decided against some of the particular parts of the law, concedes the power of the Legislature to prohibit entirely the sale of intoxicating liquors, except for mechanical, medicinal and sacramental purposes. Of the thirty-seven Judges who constitute the eight Supreme Courts, and the Court of Appeals, in the State of New York, nineteen have decided for the law, to ten against it, and eight not committed.

BANDS OF HOPE.

The Juvenile Temperance Societies in England are called "Bands of Hope." It is a very appropriate designation, and the following remarks by one of our contemporaries, are highly deserving attention:—

One of the most satisfactory proofs of the progress of Temperance in the present day is, in our opinion, the desire evinced on the part of Temperance Societies to enter upon the formation of juvenile "Bands of Hope." So highly do we think of this course of action, that we are inclined to call it an "infallible" sign of progress. It is well to look for a more effective organization; it is well to try to raise up female societies in all parts of the country; still, if at the same time we leave out the young in our calculations, we shall be doing nothing more than rising a superstructure without a solid foundation, which will, when a few years have passed over it, totter to its fall, and crumble into dust. The increased determination on all sides to bring the young under the tuition of Temperance laws fully proves that this truth is beginning to be in our midst. Many Temperance societies are evidently anxious to enrol as many of them beneath the banners of the "cold water army" as possible. They collect them out of the streets, and visit them in their homes. They gather them together at particular seasons, and appoint teachers to give them special addresses. Wherever they can find them they try to win them over to the cause, and so do all that they can to save them from the withering curse of drunkenness, and make them, in their older days, become useful, sober, and happy members of the community. This is to us indeed cheering. We hail the prospect with delight, and we can only hope that the seed thus sown may by and by spring up, and bud, and blossom, and bring forth fruit, until the "Temperance tree" shall spread its healing branches over every land. We feel however, that we should be wanting in our duty, in offering to Temperance societies these few "hints" if we did not inculcate upon every society that exists for having a "Band of Hope" allied to it. No Temperance society can have any valid excuse for not possessing

one. Wherever children are to be found there "Bands of Hope" can be incorporated. And where are children not to be found?—Has any city, town, or village too few of them? Has the reader in his travels ever alighted on a populated part of the country where children are rarities? We guess not.

We are being constantly informed that they are rather too numerous. Not the slightest doubt exists then but what we have the "material" to work upon. And to talk about not being able to gather the children in, is to confess an impotence which borders on the ridiculous. Children are far sooner won over than men. A little present, or kind word, a friendly pat on the head, in most cases secure their attendance. Children love those who are kind to them, and can quickly appreciate well meant motives. They are not generally as some suppose, dull, stupid, and heavy. This we regard to be an unfounded calumny, a libel without proof. We have had the pleasure of working much amongst them ourselves, and although we have had placed under our tuition all sorts and all sizes, children supposed to be "uncommonly dull" as well as "uncommonly bright," we have found that by carefully studying their various constitutions and acting accordingly, they may not only be made docile and obedient, but in a great majority of cases be brought to a proper understanding of the truths propounded in their hearing. We fearlessly say, then, to all Temperance societies, if you have not already commenced this good work begin at once. If this world is ever to become a world free from the curse of intoxicating drink, the rising generation must occupy a prominent position in the future conflict. The heads of our old veterans will soon be laid low beneath the sod; the green grass will wave over them, and the long sleep come upon them; but they who are now so young, whose merry laugh echoes through hills, and dales, and valleys, as in sportive play they pass their sunny hours, will then play an active part in the drama of life, and be themselves the propagators of good or evil. This thought should be a stimulus to immediate and energetic labor. Whilst we delay, the drinking demon is ever on the alert; we may sleep, but he never sleeps: night and day he is continually folding the young in his tight embrace, pressing them closely till they are past hope, and then dropping them shrieking and cursing into the bottomless pit. Shall we lose them by our lethargy, or save them by our zeal?

INCIDENTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF A TEMPERANCE MISSIONARY.

RECLAIMED ONES.

It is upwards of seven years since — joined the movement, at which period he was a most intemperate man—indeed, his excesses were of the most aggravated description; but now, he is truly a changed person. In addition to his drunken excesses, he was an avowed infidel: his Sabbaths, if unable to go out drinking, were spent in loitering about the house, and lying in the ben reading the veriest trash of literature. Since connecting himself with the temperance movement, he has joined himself to the church of the Rev Mr —; he is regular in his attendance on the ordinances of the sanctuary, and also at the week-day evening prayer meeting connected with the church; he has devotion in his house evening and morning; and altogether gives most cheering evidence that he has passed from death unto