

false and followed the true. The few helpers gradually developed into a grand army of seekers who traversed every street and district, strengthening the tempted, establishing the weak, and bringing hundreds of feet into firmer and safer ways.

Until you are able to picture to your minds something of this wide and deep and continuous influence of the Temperance reform in preventing the vice of drinking, and limiting the scope of drunkard-making ; until you can count up the millions who, but for this, would in this half century have been swept hopelessly away on the tide of intemperance ; until you can imagine the countless instances in which faltering steps have been assisted and faltering purposes strengthened, and so the sober kept sober, the pure preserved pure, you will never be able to estimate the value of our reform in this matter of prevention and preservation alone.

But this is not all. One good influence preserved is as leaven to quicken the mass with which it comes in contact. Yonder in your society is a noble, grand life. It exerts a double power. Not only is it a tower of strength and an effectual barrier against evil and wrong, but it rises like a beautiful shapely column of character which charms the gaze and excites the admiration of hundreds around. They emulate its excellencies, they breathe in its spirit, and they end by building their own lives upon it as a model,

Every bright and happy home does two things in a community. It is not only an inner circle which secures the highest joy and safety to its inmates ; it is also a sweet and sunny influence which sheds its brightness through all the region round about, and wins and strengthens a score of family circles to imitate and possess the same gentle, pure spirit.

How often, if we will think back five, ten, or fifteen years, we may behold that noble life in its weak and faltering condition, just ready to link itself on to the harmful and dangerous. Then, in the hour of dire need, Temperance influences threw their friendly arms about him, the faltering step was made steady, and the hesitating face was firmly set towards the right. But for this we might to-day be looking, not upon a stately young life, but on a pitiable, broken column.

Tracing the history of that happy home only a few years backward, how often we may see what a slender thread held its central figure to sobriety and virtue, and how, at the critical moment, Temperance persuasion and influence gradually changed this into a very band of steel, that bound him surely to the good and the true. So a hearth-fire was prevented from going out into the blackness of ruin, and