

of God," the responsibility for this evil is distinctly brought within the province of the Christian Ministry and Church, and that we, as ministers and lay representatives of the church, will do everything in our power, by Christian and lawful means, to secure the enactment of such a law, and to promote and preserve such a state of public opinion as will secure its faithful execution when enacted.

When all the Churches shall thus come out against the traffic, and all Christian Ministers shall give in their adhesion to the work of suppression, we may be sure that then at least the world will see the utter inconsistency of the traffic with Christianity.

A Word of Encouragement.

We have been frequently cheered during the year by the assurances of intelligent friends that this periodical is appreciated, and that it is regarded as increasingly calculated to promote the temperance reformation. Our friend, whose letter is quoted below, sets a good example. He is a Christian minister, but considers his time appropriately employed when endeavoring to extend the list of our paying subscribers. He is not the only one; but we quote his sentiments with a view to prompt others to diligence and co-operation for the new year. Our correspondent says:

"It gives me much pleasure to send you herewith a number of new subscribers to your increasingly valuable *Advocate* of those principles which are so deeply interwoven with all that is great and good in our social system. It may probably serve to encourage and cheer you onward in the self-denying efforts you have so long made, to be assured that your *Advocate* is doing a great work in these regions, consolidating and strengthening the Temperance cause, and greatly assisting those of us who are actively engaged in promoting the cause. My earnest hope is, that you will enjoy an increasingly large share of public support."

The Voice of Portland.

Some good people in Montreal and other places at a distance from Maine have been perplexed by the bold assertions of John Neal and others, that the law of Prohibition had not diminished rum-drinking and intemperance in the chief city of Maine. Major Cahoon, ex-Mayor E. Greely, ten clergymen, and an immense majority of the leading citizens of Portland, have united in issuing the following, which, we should think, will counteract the falsehoods of our enemies and animate the hearts of our friends:—

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS OF PORTLAND.

PORTLAND, October, 1853.

Our attention has been recently called to statements made by two citizens of Portland, in relation to the operation of the Liquor Law in this city and State. These statements are, in substance, that there is more intemperance, and more liquor sold and drunk, in this city and State, at the present time, than before the passage of our existing Liquor Law. One of them even goes so far as to say that there is more intemperance "in this city and neighborhood, and probably throughout the whole State, with here and there a doubtful exception, than there has been at any one time for twenty years!"—and both give representations of the condition of things in Portland, calculated, if believed, to affect injuriously the fair reputation which our city has heretofore sustained abroad. If these statements had been published and circulated only in this city and State, we should not feel called upon to notice them. But having been circulated abroad to the injury of the reputation of our city and State, and in a manner calculated to work serious mischief, we feel it our duty to unite in saying—as we do in the most unqualified terms—that we deem these, and all similar statements as most grossly and palpably erroneous and

unfounded. That they are erroneous and unfounded must be manifest to every candid and unprejudiced citizen of our city, not only from the apparent condition of things, but from that very sure test as to the existence of intemperance, the records of pauperism and crime.

We deem it proper to add that the personal position which most, or all of us occupy, in regard to the practical business and pursuits of this city, enables us to speak in this matter from actual personal knowledge of facts.

A Young Man's Resolution Applied.

Some time ago I went with a letter from a young man to his sister, which evinced considerable intelligence, and manly decision on a point of great importance, the mention of which may be useful to other young men.

This young man has been accustomed to hear of temperance from his childhood; in his father's house he has never seen intoxicating drinks used as a beverage, nor has he ever tasted them as such. With others, members of the same family, he has been identified with the old Temperance Society from his earliest childhood. But now, away from home, he has of his own accord become a member of one of the more recent Total abstinence organizations. From some cause or the other, however, it appears, the association is not cordially sustained, and hence its continuance becomes doubtful. This I find to be the testimony of many with reference to other organizations. Well, supposing they should fail, will present adherents be released from their obligation to the Pledge? Will they be at liberty to go with the multitude to do evil? Will they abandon the teachings and examples of home and of friends? Will they form no resolutions of adherence to the principle of abstinence amid all the changes of time? What saith our young friend, to whose letter I have adverted?

After exposing his fears as to the continuance of the organization to which he is attached, and where he first publicly took the pledge, he adds:—"But you may rest assured that the most solemn pledge which I then took, *eternal hatred to all that will intoxicate*, I will for ever hold inviolate; and will endeavour by all honourable means to banish the accursed traffic: for young as I am, I have seen many and exaggerated evils flowing from their use; I have seen those with whom I once was well acquainted, and kept company, fall victims to its ensnaring temptations; and recently I have seen a member of a church, whom I had always considered an upright and righteous man, staggering home. Such sights as these, only impress me more and more, that the work of temperance is by no means accomplished, and cause me to make firmer my resolution, lest at some evil hour I also should slip."

Such is the substance of this youth's letter on the temperance question. May God help him to be always faithful to his pledge and make him a blessing in that sphere of life in which He by His Providence may place him. It is pleasing to observe young men, intelligently and cordially enlisted in the Temperance Reform. The times in which we live specially require this. In the Temperance ranks there is much lukewarmness, while among the abettors of drinking usages, there is much zeal and boldness. A bold, united, and determined stroke is required on the part of Temperance Reformers. They must lay the axe at the root of the tree. It will not suffice to cut down its branches. The deadly tree must be felled by the voice of the people calling for the enactment of a Prohibitory Law, and our young men must do their part, in bringing about this desired measure.

Young men! The Temperance enterprise has claims upon you. Abandon the fascinating cup. Look not upon the wine. Let