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No XIII.

On the Legal Prohibition of the Sale of Intoxicating Drinks.

The chief means hitherto proposed, or employed, for preventing the evils from the use of intoxicating drinks, and which were examined in the four last letters, having been shown to be insufficient, the important question may now be asked,—what else can be attempted, or done, that will be adequate, or available, to effect the purpose? Is there, really, no possible remedy which can be devised and employed, to prevent, in the future, the occurrence of those destructive and deadly evils? Must they, of necessity, continue throughout the whole remaining history of civilized and christian society. Must myriads of degraded, but responsible, and immortal beings, still be withheld from the means and ministrations, the hopes and enjoyments of the great salvation,—must the hopes of the Church, from the Sabbath School, and other modes of educational instruction, and from the religious and moral training and discipline of parents, be still so extensively blighted,—must the Christian church still be bereaved of her ministers and members,—must society, still longer, be burthened and afflicted, through crimes and pauperism,—must the truly pious, benevolent, and temperate, be still taxed and oppressed, through this prolific source of vice and ruin? In short, must all the crimes and afflictions, from this monster cause of evil, still continue to be added to all the unavoidable ills of our suffering and sorrowing humanity? We have reason to be thankful, that in these countries of civil liberty and privilege, there is no such necessity.

One remedy, and that a perfectly availing, and indeed the *only adequate one*, yet remains for our adoption, and employment. It is that of,—the *entire prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating drinks, by legal enactment*. It has now been made most convincingly manifest, in various countries, that no other measure will avail, for entirely preventing the evils which have ever followed.