

intoxicants may be restricted by legislation, but it does not appear that by such means it can be suppressed.

At the State Convention of the Young Woman's Temperance Union in Pennsylvania, recently, the Superintendent of the young women's work made this declaration:

"We have given up the idea of ever gaining anything by politics, and are now confining ourselves to individual work. We expect nothing or very little from legislation. It has been shown that the law cannot make a sober man of a drunkard."

These are wise words. They should be taken to heart by temperance workers everywhere. If they will labor in their own sphere, which is that of moral influence, and spend the time wasted on endeavors to fetter appetite with statutes, in the dissemination of knowledge and the exercise of that power which strong and pure minds can bring to bear upon the weak, in training the young, in reclaiming the fallen and in finding and using means to cure the disease of dipsomania, they will accomplish far more than by punitive and suppressive measures that trench on human liberty.

This is not intended to signify disapproval of laws and ordinances to regulate and restrain the liquor traffic. The arguments and evidences in favor of high license we think are such as to convince unprejudiced minds that investigate the subject. But the root of the evil is not in the trade which furnishes the supply, it is in the demand, which springs from sources beyond the reach of legislation. The liquor appetite has come down to the present generation through a line of ancestry reaching back almost to the beginning of the world. The use of stimulants is not confined to any age or any race, and the craving for them is hereditary. It cannot be eradicated in one generation nor extinguished by statutes and penalties.

It is a wise provision in the Utah school law which requires special instruction in the public schools "concerning the nature of and effects produced by the use of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics." It ought to be enforced, and information of this character should form part of the tuition in all the schools in the country.

The custom of presenting stimulants to visitors in society, the practice of "treating," so common among men, the habit of indulgence in drams, so frequent with persons who could just as well as not dispense with it, should all be abolished. They encourage those who

have a disposition to drink to excess, and make the way harder for those who desire to overcome it.

The rational treatment of persons afflicted with the inherited disease that leads to inebriety, is one of the measures that zealous promoters and advocates of total abstinence should study and support. Fine, imprisonment, disgrace and contempt have little or no effect, because they do not reach the root of the evil. A weak will goes down before a strong appetite, and either the will must be aided or the desire quenched, or both, before a cure can possibly be effected. The remedies which seem to accomplish the end desired ought to be thoroughly investigated, and if found to be as claimed, should be placed within the reach of the poor as well as the rich who are cursed with the inordinate and unconquerable craving for intoxicants.

The diffusion of scientific and practical knowledge, the discouragement of tipping among the temperate as well as the intemperate, zeal mingled with discretion and governed by truth in the advocacy of abstinence, rational laws and regulations for the restriction of the liquor traffic and the punishment of offenders against public order and decency, and a compassionate and curative course with the diseased inebriate, will accomplish a great deal toward the eradication of the great curse of the world, and the effects will be more lasting than those which are brought about by exaggerated exordiums, intemperate temperance lectures, vituperative denunciations, prohibitory legislation or any measures which are oblivious of natural causes and moral effects.

PHILOSOPHICAL BENEVOLENCE.

THE Russian government has taken steps to prevent an investigating committee of rich Moscow merchants from visiting the famine-stricken districts of the Empire with a view to distributing relief to the starving populace. This is an exercise of preventive power that a citizen of a free country can scarcely comprehend. It naturally fills him with disgust, not only because the amelioration of the condition of the people is thus arbitrarily prevented, but also because those to whom the restriction is applied are deprived of the right to expend their own money as they please. However, the conditions existing under an absolute form of government cannot be measured from the standpoint of those who "breathe the free air of a republic." The Russian government is despotic,

and the measures employed in relation to the people are of the same character.

There is, besides the nature of the government—which ought to be abolished as soon as possible,—a hue of philosophy in the preventive measure referred to. The inferential basis of the action of the government, as indicated in the dispatches, is that the distribution of charity without the recipients being required to give an adequate return for the benefits derived, would lead to popular demoralization. They would prefer to live in idleness if supported in this way, rather than labor on the relief railroads and other public works. They would even neglect to plow and sow for the production of a harvest for next year. The latter result would superinduce the very condition from which the people are now suffering. It would perpetuate the famine. It would also tend to obliterate what little of self-dependence and manly dignity there may be in the Russian peasantry. If the Moscow merchants had devised a plan for providing employment for the people, the carrying out of their charitable project would have been philosophically benevolent.

The views of the late President Young on the subject of assisting poor people was highly practical and sensible. One of his mottoes was: "The best way to help needy people is to put them in the way of helping themselves." He was a strict adherent of his own theory, and there are few men who, in a lifetime, give practical assistance to as many people as he did during his career.

INJURING PARNELL.

IRISHMEN continue to supply the opponents of home rule for Ireland with arguments that can not be easily controverted. Following on the heels of the attempt of the Parnellite faction to blow up the office of the *National Press* with dynamite, come the rough and terrible riots in the city of Cork, precipitated by the same class against the followers of McCarthy. The anti-home rule people are able to point—as a probable result of the success of Gladstone's measure—to a future of anarchy in Ireland, which would be in danger of being broken into fighting fragments. They can also consistently apprehend that with extended political prestige in the hands of such people, there would be imminent danger of constant collision between the local and the Imperial Parliaments, and the intensification of the hatred of the Irish people toward the English.

What a pity it is that a people who have been struggling so long under