

ONWARD.

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TO OUR READERS.

THE growing importance of the Temperance question in regard to the training of the young, is being universally recognised, and a large and increasing amount of sympathy is manifested in many directions towards the Band of Hope movement, which, under the guiding influence of religious teaching, seeks early to inculcate the principles of Total Abstinence from Intoxicants.

The Lancashire and Cheshire Band of Hope Union, established a little over two years ago by a number of Sabbath school teachers, and conducted entirely by voluntary and gratuitous labourers, gave a new impetus to the movement in these districts, and has so largely increased that it exerts an influence over at least twenty thousand individuals.

The design of the "ONWARD" is to maintain and extend this influence beyond its present local phase,—by the supply of original and select articles directly bearing upon the Temperance work in the Sabbath school, the educational institution, and the homes of our young people,—by contributing information and suggestions for the formation and conducting Bands of Hope,—by furnishing intelligence of the progress of the movement, and by providing for our children interesting tales, anecdotes, and facts, with original and select songs, music, and recitations.

Thus we hope to supply pure literature, alike interesting and instructive to young and old. Beginning with earliest years, we would teach our little ones to avoid that temptation which hides beneath its gayest surface the poison sting to happiness and peace for time and eternity—and gently leading them *Onward*, would strengthen and confirm their habits, so that, as they enter upon the battle of life—hating that accursed thing, "strong drink"—they may contend with manhood's vigour, in God's name, to remove for ever from our loved land a

traffic which, year by year, leaves in our midst its pathway dyed with the blood of SIXTY THOUSAND VICTIMS!!! a record of devastation, misery, and crime—horrible to contemplate!

It will be our duty, at all times, firmly and fearlessly to advocate our principles, while the large number and high Christian character of our contributors is the best guarantee that we assign to our mission no higher claims than those in consonance with God's Word. Yet we are convinced that the cause in which we are engaged is God's own work. We do not claim for it the power or place of the Gospel. We rejoice to believe that there is no work, no effort so important, as that of making known the truth of God and leading perishing souls to Christ. Nay, it is because we recognise the fulness of this truth, that we are the more earnestly anxious to oppose to the death the faintest shadow, the very appearance of that evil, which tenfold more than all others effectively hinders the reception and progress of religious truth. The "Onward" will aim to advance the cause of true Temperance—advocating a Band of Hope for every Sabbath school, and a Temperance Society in every home—affording aid and encouragement to all good efforts, and stimulating to renewed exertions the faint and desponding. No labour or expense will be spared to render it worthy of the support and confidence of every Christian philanthropist and earnest Temperance reformer. The difficulties in the preparation and labour of issuing a *First Number* will form some apology for its falling somewhat short of our intentions, and we hope will enlist the forbearance of our readers. Our motto is "ONWARD," and we trust fully to apply it in the work of our Magazine.

Having stated our object, and the course we desire to adopt in attaining it, we may honestly appeal to ministers of the Gospel, Sabbath school teachers, Temperance advocates, and all who love to benefit men's souls and bodies out of love for Christ, to aid in the circulation of our Magazine—in the spread of our movement, and in the support and extension of our Union.

We are engaged in no ordinary battle, we struggle with no common enemy. Every description of the power and enormity of this wide-spread evil is but a glimpse of its awful reality—it darkens our pathway at every step—stands in the way of all our best efforts—destroys, as a cankerworm, all our social happiness—and forms the devil's best agent for dragging men's souls to perdition.

Help us, then, to keep our children from such a fearful snare—they will be none the worse if they never touch or taste it—they may be ruined, as millions have been, if but by a *little* the boundary of Total Abstinence is passed.

Resting our faith firmly on God's own Word and promise—seeking His guidance—and looking for His blessing—we commit our work to Him, as in this good and glorious cause we press "Onward."

THE EDITOR.