

## ACTIONS—NOT WORDS.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."*

THESE words, written by the wisest of men, as he "was moved by the Holy Ghost," describe very beautifully and very concisely all the objects for the attainment of which the Council of the Lancashire and Cheshire Band of Hope Union have established their new monthly magazine. They have chosen for the name of their organ the appropriate word, "Onward."

"Onward" ought to be the motto of every Christian. God Himself gave this to His chosen people, Israel, to be their watchword. Without earnest efforts on our part to advance, and to labour for the removal of the hindrances in the way to improvement, even prayer to the Deity for help is of no avail. Weeping and wailing over our sad position is of no use whatever, as we are forcibly shown in Exodus xiv., 15. "And the Lord said unto Moses, wherefore criest thou unto me? *Speak unto the children of Israel that they go FORWARD.*" Prayer without work, without going "forward" and "onward," is the bane of our poor country at present. It is easy to pray and to cry over the evils which surround us on every side, but to work in the face of interested opposition is indeed difficult, and demands the exertions of *true* members of the Church militant.

"Conceivest thou how much easier pious rapture  
Is than good action? how the frailest man  
Is prone to cling to pious rapture, only—  
Though unaware of the intention—  
Only to save the toil of acting well?"

Even those who fatten on the vices of the people, and who "join house to house, and field to field" by the wages of iniquity, and by money which may be truly called "the price of blood,"—even they bewail the horrible results which flow without ceasing from the unhallowed traffic by which "they have their wealth." "The struggle of the school, and the library, and the Church, all united, against the beerhouse and the gin palace, is," says Mr. Buxton, the brewer, "but one development of the war between heaven and hell." This brewer also confesses that "there are at this moment half a million homes in the United Kingdom where home happiness is never felt, owing to this cause alone—where the wives are broken-hearted, and the children are brought up in misery."

But, alas! "words" and not "actions" are all we can get from such men as this brewer and his partners in the production of sin and crime! "Onward" and "forward" is not their motto, except so far as regards the accumulation of gold and silver, of which may we not say, in the words of James, "Their gold and silver is cankered," and "they have heaped treasure together for the last days," and "the cries" of widows and orphans, whom they have deprived of husbands and fathers, "are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth." To destroy the cause of the innumerable evils by which we are encompassed is *our* work, and the most effectual means of bringing our work to a successful issue is by teaching the young, by "training" them "up in the way they should go." The minds of the young are as yet free from prejudice. They can be moulded in any way their teachers wish, for evil or for good. It will, I am sure, be the object of the conductors of this magazine always to present truth to their readers, both young and old—but especially to the young—truth physiological, truth moral, and truth religious and scriptural on the subject of the use of intoxicating, that is, poisoning drinks. It is the want of knowledge on this all-important subject which retards the labours of temperance reformers. Those who had not the advantage of being properly trained in their childhood are our opponents. They are passing away. A new generation is growing up. Of these may the words of the poet be true, and may our new magazine help towards their full realisation:—

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring out the false, ring in the true;  
Ring in the nobler forms of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good."

*Greenheys, Manchester, June 10th, 1865.*

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