

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Highland Messenger.
THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.—
Editor.—Permit me to say through
the pages of the "Highland Messenger,"
and others who may be acting
as agents for the "Methodist Episcopacy,"
that the Committee of Publication request
them that they will send in all their subscribers
their names, so that for the records
we may be able to furnish to the agents
of the cause every name and address
of those who are members of your church,
so that we may be enabled to furnish
them to the agents of the cause, and
thus make the cause more successful
in its efforts for the rights of man.
Victory shall crown your efforts, and success attend
you in your noble cause. We shall
ever be ready to furnish you with
all the information you require, and
will do our best to assist you in your
endeavors.

T. SULLIVAN, Ch. Committee.
Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 5, 1845.

For the Highland Messenger.

Temperance.

Mr. EDITOR.—I observed in your wise
paper a few days ago, the notice of an
temperance meeting to be held in Burnsville,
which struck me with considerable
interest, and on account of my fervent
desire to promote the cause, I have
concerned myself with the subject, but because, having
promised that the temperance cause, as I
understand it, had advanced, and had
become rather obsolete, as so popular,
was anxious to receive, by the cheering
influence of the notice, which seemed to
show me that the slogan was still, when
in the morning the star of the great day king
of made his appearance, informing him that
he is the last to break from the arms of sleep.
Indeed, we trust the representatives that had
been made to me, and from whom I had been
to places where it has been my lot to travel,
I was inclined to think that the sun of the
temperance cause had waned considerably,
and that the mists of "drinking rain" hung in
the distant horizon. The victories of the
cause seemed to have gained the upper
hand, and to be triumphing in their success;
while the voice of faithful warning, if uttered
at all, was silent in the midst of the unlim-
ited jubilant career. It was enough to
sign the stolid heart unused to such scenes,
and it was not to be wondered at, for the
moment, the champion of temperance shrank
back, faint and inactive, when all around
him seemed to lurk the dark, and left him
in the gulf. True, he could not but act re-
cently, if upon reflection, he yielded up
his high commission, and retired ingloriously
to imagined rest. No circumstances, apart
from personal delirium, could justify a desert-
ion of the post of duty when connected with
so glorious a cause as that of temperance.

The temperance cause was once the favor-
ite of the people; and to its standard hundreds
and thousands flocked, as to a refuge from
the power of a mighty foe. It has been but
a few years since the whole American com-
munity, apparently, regarded it as a mark
of honor to be admitted into the ranks of the
second water army; and on the other hand,
considered it a mark of vice and despicableness,
to be found in company with the intemperate, or
long it were, in order to reform his habits, if
possible, and bring him into subjection to
temperance government. It had, in fact,
become a matter of rare occurrence for a drunkard
to appear in open day-light, (such was
the commonly known up in the saloons of
Barclay's) and if any, at all partook of the
"withering drought," they took care to seek
a refuge from the gaze of the virtuous, in
order more successfully to pursue their darling
vice. There seemed to be promise of a long
continuance of prosperity connected with
a vital subject, particularly as it appeared to
be the cause of God, and to be stamped with
the mark of His favor. But what circum-
stances have proved otherwise, much to the
surprise of the true philanthropist; and an
almost general desuetude is apparent among
the adherents to "Nature's stimulant."

It might well be supposed though, that
among the numerous concessions that the tem-
perance cause, in the height of its prosperity,
received to its numbers, there would be some
that would prove unstable and untrue, and
would soon shrink again to their old
habits, and that in this way the numbers of
the faithful would, at times, be considerably
weakened; yet this was not the case; influence
brought it down on the foundations of
the mighty fabric, and which, as we see, has
well nigh succeeded in its sapling operation.
The great cause of the present terrible condition
of the temperance interest, exists in the
deplorable fact, that many had connected
themselves with the cause, and pledged them-
selves to adhere strictly to the appointed
rules, who proved to be but vile, malicious
designers on the prosperity of the institution.
It is a fact too palpable to be denied, that
many, who of late did but meekly associate them-
selves with the temperate, or "cold water,"
advocates, made sport of the movement, and
had no sooner signified their adherence to
temperance principles, than they were found
carousing among the ranks of the villainous
debauchees. And this was a matter of intention,
in a Christian woman; but why wealth exerts
such an influence over the great mass of hu-
man minds, will not appear marvellous when
we look at things in the light of philosophy.
The desire of happiness is a very consider-
able constituent in the composition of human
beings. And prompted by this feeling, we
are led to form ideas of happiness without
ourselves, and when formed, we chase the
fantastic fugitive from the cradle to the grave.
No man has ever yet grasped that thing he
called happiness. One imagines it to consist
in one thing, and some in another. This
would have it in beauty, that in virtue, the
other in fame, while the great majority are
unable to command a sufficiency of that precious
shining metal to reflect the image of Venus,
excite the tender passion. Pride and avarice,
therefore, keep many warm hearts assuaded,
that they would flow together in blissful
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and weave a spacious cloak for the hypocrite,
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