

From *Sketch of the Rev. Justin Edwards*

About this time, as the happy results of the introduction of the principle of total abstinence from ardent spirits in a large farming establishment, (that of S. V. S. Wilder, Esq., at Bolton, Massachusetts,) came to his knowledge, he encouraged the careful collection of the facts, and embodied them in the valuable tract, "The Well-conducted Farm."

In January and February, 1826, after much consultation with the worthy friends around him, he united with the Rev. Dr. Woods and fourteen others, ministers and laymen, in forming, in Boston, "The American Society for the Promotion of Temperance," more fully noticed hereafter. At first it proceeded noiselessly, employing no agent till the succeeding year, printing no report till December, 1829, and electing no corresponding secretary till May, 1831, when Dr. Edwards was appointed to that office.

Mr. T-, a respected merchant of Boston, states that when Dr. Edwards and Dr. Woods visited Boston to propose this new organization, Mr. T replied, that "he had been laboring fifteen years to effect a temperance reformation by the moderate use; but he did not see that it did any good, and he was tired of 'the whole thing.'" "But," said the gentlemen who called on him, "we have *a new idea*. Our main object is, not to reform inebriates, but to induce *all temperate people to continue temperate* by practising total abstinence: the drunkards, if not will die, and the land be free." "I confess," said the merchant, "that is a new view of the subject, and worth thinking of. If you see best to call a meeting, I will attend it." He did so, and from that meeting proceeded the American Temperance Society.

To Reverend Wm. A. Hallock, Secretary, New York.

ANDOVER, February 10, 1826.

My DEAR BROTHER— We are at present fast hold of a project for making all people in this country, and in all other countries, temperate; or rather, a plan to induce *those that are now temperate to continue so*. Then, as all who are *intemperate* will soon be dead, the earth will be eased of an amazing evil. This, you will see at once, is a *great* plan, and to execute it thoroughly will require great wisdom and strength. And though we are so destitute, the Lord has enough of both. 'Of his fullness' may we all receive.