

this vice, upon the perceptions and feelings of all who become addicted to it. It is for this reason, that God by his inspired servant, begins this solemn admonition, with this caution, "Be not deceived;"—just because men are prone to form a wrong estimate of their own character in reference to this subject. Not one of a thousand of those who are really guilty of this sin, and exposed to the awful penalty here denounced against it, will believe that they are implicated, or in any danger. But is the declaration of God the less true, or will it be less certainly realized, because such persons say to themselves, "peace, pence," while sinning in the face of it? We should ever recollect, that it is not according to our own estimate, but according to the estimate which God forms of our character, that we must stand or fall.

Now God has plainly and unequivocally intimated in the text, who, by him, are accounted guilty of the sin of drunkenness, viz: every person who commits it, whether seldom or often. So common has this vice become in this and other communities, and with so much indulgence and courtesey have men learned to treat it, that to be disguised with strong drink once, twice, or half a dozen times in a year, is scarcely accounted in any degree criminal, or in any respect inconsistent with a Christian character, or with membership in the Church of Christ. With such indulgence have men learned to treat it, that persons must be intoxicated monthly, nay weekly, nay almost daily, before it will be admitted that they are excluding themselves from salvation by drunkenness. But has God any where intimated, that of occasional transgressions in this way, he takes no notice; that it is only when men swell up their acts of disobedience in this way, to some certain great amount, that he holds them guilty of the sin here denounced? Far different is the case. He has here placed the drunkard, the thief, the murderer, the adulterer, and many others in the same catalogue, and warned us in the most solemn manner, that none of all these shall find a place in Heaven. Now let me ask, who do you think is accounted a murderer in the estimation of God, the man who has wilfully and unjustly taken the life of one of his neighbors, or only the man who has murdered twenty or a hundred? You will readily answer, doubtless the person who has wilfully and unjustly taken the life of but one man, is guilty of murder in the sight of God; and you will readily admit that unless he repent, and seek forgiveness with a resolution to do so no more, he cannot be saved. If I next enquire, who is a thief,

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