

right to tell our rulers, by their votes, what the moral sense of the country demands. Will any one say that in all this we are not acting in harmony with the principles of common sense and christianity, and promoting the highest good of the nation ?

4. *To persons in the enjoyment of ordinary health stimulants and narcotics are unnecessary and injurious.* There is nothing in these substances of the nature of food—nothing to enrich the blood, and, under the conditions supposed, to promote nutrition and build up the physical organism. A stimulant is that which excites abnormal or unnatural action. Alcohol, for example, taken into the stomach, according to Dr. Carpenter, “deranges the vaso-motor system; this derangement showing itself in disturbance of the heart’s action, and in relaxation of the capillary vessels, which become filled with blood, especially in the nervous system and in the skin.” “The introduction of alcohol into healthy blood can do nothing but mischief.” Dr Richardson has shown that it deteriorates the blood by softening the red corpuscles and causing them to join together and stop the circulation. They stick fast, or become deposited as obstructions in the small veins in certain portions of the body. The liver, the brains, and other organs are deranged. Hence too the red eyes and nose of the whiskey and brandy drinker which advertise to the world his diseased condition.

A narcotic is defined as “an agent which, in medical doses, allays morbid susceptibility, relieves pain, and produces sleep; but which, in poisonous doses produces stupor, coma, convulsions, and, when given in sufficient quantity, causes death.” There are many substances which produce these effects, such as tobacco and various preparations of opium, &c. Without further discussing stimulation and narcotism, it seems self-evident that persons in ordinary health do well to abstain from the use of agents that induce such results. They can suffer no injury from this abstinence, and are pretty sure to be greatly the better of it. And if they are sick, or in a morbid condition of a serious nature, no sensible person would advise them to be their own physicians, or to go to a corner-grocer or the keeper of one of our twelve hundred saloons for a prescription. Advocates are accustomed to say that when a man is his own lawyer he has a fool for his client. It is equally true that when a man is his own doctor and makes the bar-room or the whiskey and brandy bottle his drug store he has a fool for his patient. I claim the right, the liberty before God and society, for every man as a rule, to abstain totally from stimulants and narcotics without risk of injury and with the certainty of very great advantage to himself and others. But I must go further than this :

5. *The law of love, which is the law of Christ, binds his followers to abstain from anything “whereby a brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.”—Rom. 14-21.* This law is plain enough. It is of universal