

In view of these startling truths we now appeal to you, whose position among men is high—whose influence is undeniably great; and we enquire, are you not aware that your sparkling glasses, so inviting in the eyes of youth, contain the elixir of death? Are you not aware that the poor debased specimens of the drunkard tribe, from the sight of whom you turn with loathing, and contact with whom you would consider polluting, in many cases commenced their evil course when they pledged your wives and daughters in your own halls, and at your own tables? Do you not know that some of your sons—your loved ones—have already forfeited their places in the ranks of fashion, and are sunk to the filthy level of pot house drunkards? Can you be unaware of the fact that the efforts of temperance associations to reclaim them have all been frustrated by the continuance of the tempting beverage in your houses? How think you can that young man, whose whole system is corrupted by the enervating vice—whose morbid appetite, like the *Horse Leech*, continually cries give! give!—how can he resist the powerful temptation to indulge, when his father, and, alas! it may be, his mother and lovely sisters, with the whole circle of his once loved and respected relatives, allure him by their example—that most powerful preacher—to partake of the drink he has cause to dread more than death? The sight, the smell, the taste, are all grateful to his disordered senses. The knowing, craving sensations of his awakened appetite plead hard for their accustomed stimulant. The remembrance of past suffering, it is true, admonishes him to beware. To drink he knows is death—moral if not temporal death; but his system is unnerved, his moral principle is weakened, if not destroyed, and his mental energy is gone. How can he resist? He cannot. He drinks again—again he falls, and he falls the victim of your fashionable drinking customs. You have furnished the means by which he completes his ruin.

But you contend that he should control his appetite. He should drink in moderation, and avoid excess. If he would adhere to the example of his friends, no evil would ensue. We cannot pause to reason this point with you. We should undervalue your intelligence in supposing that you were blinded by such sophistry. You cannot suppose that the raging maniac can control his ravings, or that the helpless paralytic can command his motions. No more can the confirmed inebriate control his appetite, when once aroused by the application of the producing and exciting cause.

Conscious of the unpalatable character of many of the foregoing statements, we should hesitate to send this messenger into your houses, were we not fully persuaded of the truthfulness of the picture which we have drawn, and the consequent necessity for an immediate change. In our day the spirit of progression and improvement is abroad. The humbler classes are rapidly becoming elevated in the scale of society. Education and the diffusion of general information are producing very important changes in the feelings and views of mankind, and gradually, but surely, is the principle of *total abstinence* from intoxicating drinks gaining ground.