

this woeful traffic. Without these society could not exist, while intemperance is society's *curse* and its complete removal would be an incalculable blessing.

Intoxicants are either good or bad. Here we need not hesitate, we know the fruit to be bad and that continually, and the church should hew down the tree to its very roots. Intemperance is followed by the grossest evils, destroying reason, crippling the exercise of faculties for daily life, draining the vital force of the system, exposing it to every form of disease, to premature and disgraceful death, robbing men of self-respect, hurling them to poverty and disgrace, opening the soul to every kind of criminal solicitation, filling our criminal courts, our prisons, our asylums and poor-houses; destroying the sanctity of our sabbath, so that it has become *the curse* of our time,—the demon of modern society—that the church is called upon to cast out. It is a sad thought that there should be among those who ought to be foremost in the action against this foe, so much apathy in regard to the ruin wrought before their eyes. We are like the dwellers in a lofty mansion built on some dangerous coast where frequent wrecks occur. Darkness and storm are without, we are comfortable within. A ship crowded with passengers is going to pieces among the rocks: we see the red flash of the alarm guns, and hear the booming signal that death is at work and help is needed. *And we rest* while all through the night imploring voices are heard, one after another, men women and innocent children are dropping, dropping from the icy wreck and the busy waves are piling the dead bodies along the shore, under our very windows, and we sleep, or answer "am I my brother's keeper"? Do not Christian integrity and fidelity require that all true men take the ground of total annihilation of so worldly, so selfish, so perilous, so carnal, a foe?

If the church wishes to have the Sabbath day kept holy, then she is bound to do all she can to close all sources of intemperance—the liquor saloon and tobacco store; for the use of tobacco is but another species of intemperance, closely allied to the use of strong drink, in innumerable cases leading to it, costing our country nearly as much,—an evil, unnecessary, injurious and enslaving practice. This evil must be fought on temperance ground, with temperance arguments and temperance weapons. The only radical cure for intemperance is that the church lift up her voice loud and earnest in favor of total abstinence; let her influence be given only to those legislators who favor prohibition of the liquor traffic; let every sunday school be a band of hope; let every church be a temperance society; let our literature be purged of all sentiment favorable to moderate use of intoxicants; let our religious papers and magazines discontinue the advertisements of strong drink and become *consistent*.

"Still our onward course pursuing,
God speed the right!
Every foe at length subduing,
God speed the right!
Truth, thy cause, whate'er delay it,
There's no power on earth can stay it,
God speed the right.

The thanks of the League were given to Mr. Pitcher, and his paper requested for publication.

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

Moved by H. Rose, seconded by A. P. Hulburt,

That the Fourth Annual Meeting of the League be held in "Montreal."

Moved in amendment by Robert Irwin, seconded by J. M. Hall,

That the Fourth Annual Meeting be held in "Sherbrooke."