

total abstinence, where the weak, the wayward, and the erring may not stumble; where the victims of passion and of appetite, infirm of purpose and of will, beguiled by fleshly lusts, may not fall into perdition. "Lest that which is lame be turned out of the way." Lest the halting and the lame from evil habit, hereditary, or acquired propensity, the young, the thoughtless, the unwary, be by our example led astray, to their everlasting ruin. "But let it rather be healed," restored to the path of virtue and sobriety by the exhibition of our self-denial, consistent walk, and entire abstinence from all that can intoxicate.

We are exhorted to "abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul," to "exercise ourselves unto godliness," and "whatsoever we do, to do it to the glory of God." And can he who selfishly indulges in that which is the cause of temporal and eternal misery to millions of his fellow men claim, in any degree, to fulfil these holy requirements of the law of God?

We are commanded to "give no offence to the Church of God," yet what has ever so retarded the progress of religion, or given offence to the Church of God, demanding the exercise of its discipline and the expulsion of its fallen members, like the vice of intemperance?

At least twenty thousand members of the Christian Church, says the Rev. William Tarrant, of Leeds, are lost yearly through drink, and thrice that number prevented by the same cause from entering its ranks. On the moderate estimate of the Rev. Wm. Reed, that only one member is lost to each society in a year, which every pastor will acknowledge to be far below the average, there are thirty thousand thus lost every year, most of whom it is to be feared are lost forever, and go down from the praises of the sanctuary to the wailings of endless despair. Nor is this confined to the laity alone; even the constant ministering at God's altar, the perpetual handling of holy things, the solemn restraints and obligations of the divine office, are no safeguard against temptation.

Says Dr. Guthrie, "I have seen no less than ten clergymen with whom I have sat down at the Lord's table deposed through drink."

"In one month," says the Rev. Wm. Jay, of Bath, "seven dissenting ministers came under my notice, deposed through drink."