

your influence, in assisting and promoting spiritual improvement, and indeed for general edification and success in your sacred and most responsible ministrations. It is the sincere and heartfelt desire of the writer, that you should possess and ever retain such legitimate influence, and that the work of the Lord, in every branch and department of it, may greatly prosper in your hands.

It is a distressing truth, as all who spiritually and fully examine into the subject ascertain and admit, that the standard of religion, as to vital piety and practical holiness, is at present very imperfect and low. As to a revival from this state, it cannot scripturally be expected for many reasons that might be assigned, but most especially while the drinking of strong liquors so generally prevails, it being admitted by all, that drunkenness is far more than all others the cause of individual declensions and of expulsions from churches.

That the Abstinence Reform is divinely intended to be specially instrumental towards hastening and extending a revival of pure and practical Christianity, cannot be questioned, after a candid and unprejudiced consideration of the nature and tendencies of the Reform itself, and of the proofs already afforded of its adaptation to assist towards such a glorious result. It has, indeed, already succeeded in accomplishing good, especially of a religious description, far beyond the most sanguine expectations of its earliest advocates and friends. With the numerous and powerful prejudices and impediments it has had to contend against, its present success could not have been achieved independent of such Divine approbation and favour. Its first friends and supporters were, comparatively, but feeble instruments for effecting such a work; and, even to this day, in most of the countries in which it is established, but very few, indeed, of the mighty or the noble, or those extensively influential, are giving it any assistance or sanction. Yet, notwithstanding, it is everywhere steadily and surely advancing, and, by its friends at least, it will not, and *must* not be doubted that, in the end, it will very generally, if not universally, triumph.

Under all the aspects of the subject which have here been exhibited, and admitting, Reverend Sirs and Brethren, as you surely must do, many, if not all of the reasons and motives which have been urged on your attention, let it no longer be truly said of you that you oppose or neglect such a benevolent and excellent work. Let not any remains of prejudice or adherence to premature opinion, perseveringly held or expressed, or any feeling with regard to approbation, so long and slightly withheld, induce you any longer to continue in such opposition or neglect. Rather yield to intreaties, to enquire diligently and fully into the whole of the subject, for, assuredly, it is every way worthy of your thorough investigation. Condescend to peruse the chief and most valuable publications which have been put forth in favour of the Movement, attend some of the meetings on the subject, and by using these and other means in your power, and prayerfully and candidly seeking to be rightly directed, you will, it may be hoped, be led to discover and adopt the truth concerning it, and at once ascertain and practise the appropriate duty of uniting with the cause and assisting to promote it.