

convinced in our very soul that if the temperance cause has an enemy upon earth it is the respectable moderate home wine-drinker. Hence the wheels of reform must move slowly until the pernicious custom of home drinking be abandoned. In our introduction to the Home Circle a year ago, we hinted that all *real* improvements and reforms must take their rise in the domestic circle, and also that the only radical cure for all moral and financial evils must begin in the household, and our convictions in regard to this matter are now fully confirmed.

Imitation of customs of those in higher ranks by those who move in humbler spheres, is evidently a natural failing that is almost irresistible. Were it otherwise the evil of dram-shop tipping could be easily remedied. Who would wish to imitate the ragged, squalid, brutal drunkard, who raves in the bar-room, consorts with swine in the gutter, or fills with clamor and dismay the cold and comfortable abode, which, in the spirit of a demon he returns to at night? Human nature recoils at the very idea that he should be imitated. His example, as illustrated in self-degradation, alone, has the contrary effect. Every one seems to shudder at the thought of becoming a drunkard. He is a miserable outcast, a pest in society, having no hope of eternal life.—That no drunkard “shall inherit the kingdom of God” is the language of Inspiration. Drunkenness is, therefore, terrible. Half the miseries of the world spring from it, and are known to spring from it. God’s faithful ambassadors in many lands have borne testimony to the fact that, “Intemperance has done, and is to-day doing more to destroy the souls of men, corrupt the morals of society, and otherwise obstruct the work of the church, than all other known evils combined.” History, observation, experience, all go to convince that those who once throw themselves into its deadly grasp—if not restrained by sovereign grace—must reap the penalty of shame, disgrace and ruin!

With such overwhelming testimony as to the ravages of intoxicating liquors, is it not surprising that intelligent men and women should sanction their use as a harmless beverage? The time was when ignorance of their *true* character might have been offered as a plea for their place on the sideboards of Christians. However this may have been in the past, no plausible excuse for their continuance as such can possibly be framed to-day. That strong drinks are not only the prolific source of crime, but that they work evil and that continually, is now too well known for any rational being to frame an apology for their internal use. With such knowledge pressing upon our minds it becomes every lover of mankind, but more especially professing Christians to ask themselves individually, What can I do to suppress the dreadful *vice* of intemperance? Such would be a step in the right direction. And it is pleasing to know that much is being done to arrest the evil. Governments are legislating, moralists reasoning, Christians remonstrating, and thus forming public opinion for a grand onset against the liquor traffic.

Notwithstanding all this, the axe *must* be laid to the root of the tree, otherwise the process of destruction will go on till all that is cheering and sublime in our world, fade and disappear before it. This is strong language, but we feel justified in speaking thus. We believe it is not too much to say that as surely as the nation of ancient Israel were driven