

their fellows to continue in this line of gratification that their selfish ends may be promoted and that they may live in luxurious ease at the expense of the comforts of the many.

While it is truly a work of the Christian believer, as well as the moralist, to seek to induce these to change their course of action, in this kind of service we have much more to contend with than with the individual who uses the intoxicant for the exhilarating effect it produces : for in the income these derive from thus pandering to the depraved appetites of the many they find a passport into what is claimed to be good society and the means to gratify other laudable and proper desires, the means for intellectual culture and too often admission among the professed followers of Jesus, simply because of their contributions for the support of the church or its pastor. All this makes our work of reaching these by appealing to their higher moral and spiritual nature the more difficult in the present existing feeling of society, where wealth, irrespective of worth, forms a passport to its highest social circles.

It becomes, then, our duty to use the aggregated public opinion as that opinion is expressed through the ballot box concerning practices which shall be allowed to prevail among a civilized community, and that opinion crystallized into a law sternly and rigidly enforced, because the best interests of the community, both present and perspective, demand it ; and this course is rendered necessary for the reason that, while we might convince one set of men that it was their duty to abandon a traffic fraught with so much of evil, others, whose hearts had not been renovated or converted, would be ready to take their places, and thus our work would have to be done over again and again until the whole world was converted so as to live only under Divine guidance, and each unholy or unlawful passion be voluntarily restrained by the individual—a consummation that cannot for one

moment be entertained by the most devout-enthusiast.

But there are difficulties which lie in the way of thus concentrating and crystallizing public opinion into a law that can be rigidly and fearlessly enforced. Laws are made in this land by men chosen by the people for that express object, and in thus choosing men the people are supposed to express their choice of the kind of legislature or the character of the laws they need, but in fact such choice too generally falls upon the politician, who is scheming for election for the emoluments it brings ; and these, sustained by a party press who have other private motives as an inducement to advocate the claims of party, and in these efforts to obtain power and place offer such inducements as pander to the sensual enjoyments of the mass to influence their votes for themselves, and thus they use the vendors of intoxicants as their most powerful allies to aid them in the consummation of their designs ; and hence this class, to whom is intrusted so much that concerns the best welfare of humanity, cannot be depended on to assist in the removal of so great an evil as intemperance, for from its continuance they are either hoping to be placed in a lucrative or honorable position, or to retain it if already in possession of it.

To those of us then who are in earnest in this reform, and to whom is entrusted the ballot to meet this difficulty, we must not only refuse to be any longer led by the interests of any one man or party, but we must unflinchingly and aggressively interpose our influence against intrusting such men with the responsibility of making our laws by casting our ballots for men whom we are assured will act unhesitatingly for the good of the whole without regard to their own personal aggrandizement ; and while for a time such a course may be a seeming evil, as in some instances throwing the power of the government into the hands of