

inevitable result of the liquor traffic, which is supported and perpetuated by the drinking usages of society, and sanctioned by the authority of legal enactment.

The unhappy and unhallowed effects of intemperance upon the Christian Church are seen and felt to be no less manifest and mournful, in hindering her progress, and lessening her influence, by relaxing discipline and lowering the tone and standard of vital piety. Its direct tendency is to prevent the diffusion of gospel truth, and to diminish its power over the hearts and consciences of men, either by estranging them from the house of God and its ordinances, or by unfitting them for profiting by attendance upon them. It is ever the bane of Sabbath observance, church attendance, Sunday school and Bible class instruction. It retards and counteracts the work of evangelization at home, and it impedes and opposes the work of christian missions abroad, by crippling the resources of the Church, weakening her testimony, squandering her means, demoralizing her agencies, fostering opposition, and strengthening the hands of her foes. Can it be a question, in the present state of society, whether the habitual use of intoxicating drinks, as a beverage, by members of any christian congregation, seriously affects the healthful influence of that congregation, or that it tends to support the drinking usages which lead so many astray, and cause many a brother to stumble and fall? Or can it be denied that such habitual use is likely to lead to the neglect of personal or family duty, to irregular or rare attendance at the place of prayer, to general spiritual declension, and possibly to a shameful fall? Such, alas! has been the sad experience of many, who "through strong drink are out of the way." Brethren high in office and in honour too, of great usefulness, and highly beloved, overcome by this insidious and pernicious habit, have fallen, and brought disgrace upon themselves and dishonour upon their profession; ministerial character and usefulness have often been sadly impaired, the influence of the gospel counteracted, and the hearts of many grieved and discouraged, by the known habits of office-bearers in this respect; and the fact that members and even office-bearers of the Church not only use, but manufacture and sell intoxicating liquors, is often referred to as giving the high sanction of religion to the traffic, and the commendation of good authority for the practice of drinking. A very large number of those who are engaged in this traffic are members of Christian Churches, and contribute for the support of their ordinances and institutions, and hence the solemn responsibility that rests upon all alike, and the urgent necessity for earnest action in the matter. The various schemes of religious and benevolent enterprise languish for want of men and money, while thousands of christian men are employed, and millions of money spent on what is at best a useless, and generally a most injurious indulgence. The claims of missions abroad, and the needs of the Church at home, urge the propriety of using all lawful means, and of making every personal sacrifice, in order to the suppression of the traffic, and the removal of so great a hindrance to the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world.

The fearful effects of intemperance on the hopes and happiness of families, who can depict? What scene more appallingly desolate than a drunkard's home? Whose condition more piteously hopeless than that of its wretched and unhappy inmates?—physical destitution, domestic misery, social degradation, moral pollution, and spiritual darkness and death—and all so rayless and hopeless to the anguished, broken-hearted wife, and despairing mother, and her neglected, abused, demoralized children, because