

The Evils of the Liquor Traffic,

And our Responsibility in Reference thereto.

"Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink; Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!"—Isa. v. 22, 23.

There are many prophecies in the Word of God which seem to teach that there are better days in store for the inhabitants of this world than have ever yet been enjoyed by any age or nation, prophecies which seem to promise the universal prevalence of justice and truth, of righteousness and peace among men. Take, for example, some portions of the 72nd Psalm, which is allowed by all to be a prediction of the ultimate universal reign of Christ in this world: "He shall judge the poor of the people, He shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before Him, and His enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts, yea all kings shall fall down before Him, all nations shall serve Him." So in the prophecy of Isaiah, 35th chapter, "The parched ground shall become a pool, and thirsty land springs of water. In the habitation of dragons where each lay shall be grass with reeds and rushes."

No one will doubt that these and many similar predictions have not yet been realized in the history of Christ's Kingdom on earth. All kings have not yet come to serve Him. Indeed, no one nation has ever yet served Him in such a way as He ought to be served. The most Christianized nations of the globe have never yet enjoyed such a measure of righteousness and peace as seem to be anticipated in the Word of God. And there are many earnest Christians who sometimes stand almost paralyzed in view of the wickedness and crime walking abroad in the earth and are ready to ask whether it is possible that the race, so long immersed in darkness, sorrow, and crime, is yet to enjoy universal righteousness and peace? If we look at the problem from the standpoint of human weakness and human tendency to evil we could not hesitate for a moment to answer, *It can never be*. But then let us not forget that evil, though mighty, is not supreme. Let us not forget that God reigns in the universe, and that He has said, "Thus far shalt thou go, but no further." One thing is certain, as certain as if it had already come to pass, namely, that all the good that God has promised in His Word