

lesser evil of the two. It follows as a necessary further inference, that the submission to this lesser evil should be confined within the narrowest possible boundaries: that the frequent repetition of it (like the frequent use of calomel, arsenical medicines, tincture of opium, &c.) is a slow and insidious, but sure, sapping and mining of the citadel of health, pre-disposing the body to disease, or rendering it more difficult to subdue and remove:—often shortening life, or enfeebling and embittering it:—and that to bring it, in any form or disguise, out of the class of *medicines*, into the class of *food*, is, to say the least, a most unwise and perilous course.

Upon this point, however, we cannot now enlarge;—we may refer you with confidence to the published opinions of hundreds of the most eminent medical men of England and America, who assert “that the habitual use of distilled or fermented liquors is a principal cause of disease, poverty, and misery; and that the disuse of them, except when prescribed medicinally, would powerfully contribute to improve the health, morals, and comfort of the community.”

Viewing it, then, as a simple question of *personal expediency*, I would say—*abstain from them*, and thus obey the injunction, “Do thyself no harm.” But remembering that you are accountable to God for the manner in which you use your body, your property, and *your influence*, the duty becomes yet more seriously binding:—for if you thus enervate the body or weaken the mind, you must for this render an account to your Creator; and if you think to escape by saying that you sustain no injury, you have still to account for *property mis-spent*:—for property which might have secured you equal, if not superior comforts, and yet enabled you to do more for the cause of humanity, and for the cause of God.

Add these considerations to those which have principally occupied our attention, and it appears to me, that the total amount of responsibility is incalculably great;—the argument in favour of TOTAL ABSTINENCE FROM ALL INTOXICATING DRINKS is irresistible. At the same time, let it be carefully remembered, that we have adduced this only as one illustration of the manner in which the fundamental law of Christ's Kingdom is to be carried out. The same principle will apply to *every* pursuit:—and for the exercise or neglect of that principle, *each one* must for himself, soon give an account. “Therefore, whether ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.”