

when at the close of life you are called upon to part with them, how sad your hopes and their prospects, and in view of meeting them again, how solemn your responsibility!

In conclusion, brethren, our appeal to you is not based upon the question as to the poisonous qualities of the liquor consumed, nor whether drinking is in itself a sin, nor whether there is any positive prohibition contained in God's Word. Let each man settle these cases according to the light he has, in view of his own duty and responsibility. But our appeal is based upon the great fact of your professed subjection to Christ, and your obligation to do all things for His glory, and like *Him*, to live not for yourselves, but for others. Now, on the one hand, here is the admitted prevalence of a most insidious and destructive vice, a widespread and most pernicious practice existing among us. And on the other, there is the example and teaching of Jesus, the entire spirit of the Gospel we receive, inspiring love, enjoining self-denial, and calling upon us to stretch forth the hand and help the weak—help a feeble, tried, tempted, falling brother, one for whom Christ died. Surely it is our duty at once to act upon the principle implied in the noble declaration of the magnanimous tender-hearted apostle, when he says:—"Wherefore if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." Though our circumstances are very different, the principle is the same, and is susceptible of a ready and easy application. Will you not then, for the sake of many thousands who are already victims of strong drink, for the sake of multitudes who are in great danger of becoming such, for the sake of those who are dear to you, for the sake of the Saviour who died for you, and for the love of souls who are ready to perish, resolve, by the divine blessing, to do all in your power to banish intemperance and its brood of ills from the Church and the world? As patriots who love your country, as philanthropists who are interested in all that concerns the weal of your fellow-men, and above all, as Christian followers of Him who gave himself for us, and who has said: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me," we ask you to aid in the suppression of this evil; under which our country, our Church, and our people mourn. While the season of the year suggests the interchange of mutual good wishes, and inculcates the exercise of charity and good will to all, it also reminds us that, on that very account, it is a time of peculiar temptations to many in the enjoyment of the domestic and social entertainments, which are so frequent, and otherwise so precious and so powerful for good. In the exercise of hospitality one towards another, we pray you to be on your guard that you wreath not the bowl of danger to all, and of death to many, with the fragrant and beautiful flowers of home gladness and social festivity.

"And now, Brethren, we commend you to God, and to the Word of His Grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

Your brother and fellow-labourer in the Lord,  
W. ORMISTON, D. D., *Moderator of Synod.*

HAMILTON, Dec. 25th, 1869.