

an admitted fact, it is evident that no subject can be suggested of wider importance than this one now before us.

Meeting with this evil at every turn in life, finding our expectations concerning many in our parishes shattered by its assaults, I am sure that I am asking nothing unreasonable when I demand on behalf of this question, your serious consideration.

We are, I think, all agreed as to the existence of the evil. No sane man can doubt it. The very drunkard, poor victim, will admit it in his sober moments, though in the same hour he returns to his wallowing in the mire.

I need not take up your time in proving this. Broken hearts, desolated homes, our prisons, our asylums, all proclaim with trumpet tongue, the greatness of the evil. Alas! that the testimony thus borne, goes for so little. Alas! that men, knowing all this, return to the use of that which biteth like an adder; as a foolish moth flies back to the flame, which has scorched her wing, to find therein, at last, a fiery death.

But while so far agreeing, it is possible that a difference of opinion as to the treatment of the disease, may exist among us. We are met as Physicians; let us consult together and endeavour to discover, if possible, some method of dealing with the evil in which we may agree.

We are called upon almost daily in our parishes, to deal with this evil,—is there any definite treatment to be recommended?

I suppose the case of an habitual drunkard to come under our pastoral care, how shall we deal with it? I may appear to be establishing truisms, but each step is necessary in my argument. Our first effort must be, to bring the unhappy man to recognise the positive sinfulness of this vice. It is astonishing how widely this is ignored. Men generally regard intemperance as a *failing*, but how few remember that it is a sin against God's Temple—the body. Now no reformation can be satisfactory, if it is not based upon the confession of the *Sinfulness* of drunkenness. I have had some experience in dealing with this class of persons; and I have had *many* disappointments, and I can say that I believe all have come from failure to com-