

natural bodily appetites has an injurious moral effect, from the subordination of the spiritual to the animal, much more such an unnatural craving as that for strong drink, which ruins the body and debases the mind.

“Know ye that ye are the temple of God,” saith the Scripture. “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy.”\* And a goodly temple this house of our body is, nobly built and cunningly contrived, curiously and wonderfully made, a temple where the incense of prayer and praise should evermore ascend to God. But intemperance, by stimulating the animal nature, kindles unhallowed passions in the heart, and is the greatest incentive to lust and impurity in the world. It overthrows the altar of God in the soul, and extinguishes the flame of Christian devotion. It builds an alien altar there and offers strange fire thereon. It desecrates the temple of the Holy Ghost, pollutes the house of the body, and makes it the hold of every foul and unclean thing, where sinful passions prowl, and festering lusts abide.

We are commanded to “Watch and pray, that we enter not into temptation,”† but does not he who partakes of alcoholic stimulus welcome temptation to his soul, and “put an enemy into his mouth to steal away his brain?”

We are to “abstain from all appearance of evil,”‡ and if dram-drinking, even in the greatest moderation, is not evil and a fearful one, too, it certainly has remarkably the appearance of evil.

We are to love our neighbour as ourselves, to watch over one another as they that must give an account. We are to put no stumbling-block, or occasion to fall, in the way of any. And does not he disobey this command, is he not guilty of this offence, who, by his example, and influence, lays a snare in his brother's way and becomes a stumbling-block in his path, over which he may fall into perdition?

On the contrary we are commanded to “make straight paths for our feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way, but let it rather be healed.” We are to make paths, in which whose walks cannot be mistaken; not the perilous and difficult road of, so-called, “moderate drinking,” where only men of strong will, firm nerve, and cool brain can walk at all; but the plain path of

\* 1 Cor. iii. 16, 17. † Matt. xxvi. 41. ‡ 1 Thess. v. 22.