

such a situation, he either became, or continued long, a zealous friend and promoter of religion, or possessed of a desire, even to witness its advancement. He is not only exposed to the most contaminating example, but also, wilfully excluding himself from the benefit of the ordinary means of personal holiness and salvation. Can the man who has been all day measuring out drink to his neighbors, to intoxicate, debase, and ruin them, go to his knees at night, and supplicate a blessing on his worldly business? Can he, in the morning, ask the guidance of God and prosperity to attend him in the avocations of another day, when it is to be spent in the same employment? No—to pray for prosperity in such a business, is to pray for the temporal and eternal ruin of others. Can he pray with sincerity and fervency for the salvation of his own soul, when he has no regard or sympathy for the souls of his neighbors? Can he go with clean hands and a pure heart to the sanctuary of God on the Sabbath, after a week spent in this manner, and pray with fervency for the progress of godliness around him, for the prosperity of the Church of Christ, or the salvation of sinners; when his whole conduct throughout the week, is utterly opposed to the interests of the Redeemer's cause, subversive of all religion, and only leading men down to perdition? It is impossible.—Prayers from a person acting in this way, can only be a solemn mockery in the sight of that Great and Pure Being who requires “truth in the inward parts.”

2d.—MAGISTRATES who grant Licences to these Taverns and Retail Shops, are, to a certain extent, guilty of *indirectly* furnishing their neighbors with drink to become intemperate. They who vend liquors to the inhabitants and others, in this indiscriminate way, vend under a license from them, which they could withhold at pleasure, and the instant any house is known by them to be disorderly, they have power to suppress it. Magistrates are the official and legal guardians of the public morals. Their commissions are granted to them expressly to authorize and empower them to devise and execute measures for the public good, and to punish and suppress whatever is opposed to the civil and religious interests of society, provided it be punishable by the laws of the country; and they have yet to render an account to God, of the way in which they discharge the duties of this important office. Among all their varied duties there is probably none more difficult to perform aright, and at the same time so important—none of greater responsibility than that of issuing Licenses to persons to retail ardent spirits.