

and devastated plains, by widows' wails and orphans' cries, but by glad homes and happy hearts, by peace and prosperity, by righteousness and temperance.

As the huge ice-bergs of the North melt rapidly away before the tepid washings of the Gulf Stream, so this giant *sin*-berg of society is being undermined by the resistless washings of the sea of Christian public opinion; and whoso feels a single heart-throb for the sorrows of mankind, whoso puts forth a single holy effort, or utters a single earnest prayer for the welfare of his fellow-creatures, hastens the day when this dire curse and evil shall pass away for ever and be remembered only as a hideous dream.

If this fair vision, this consummation so devoutly to be wished, is to be realized, it will be by the active co-operation of the Christian Church. The Church is not stepping out of her sphere when she braces her energies to this great work. Temperance is not religion, but it is a very important part of it. It is not Christ, but it is John the Baptist preparing the way for His approach. Temperance alone will not save a man, but for many a man it is the first step toward salvation. We can conceive of no greater auxiliary to the spiritual prosperity of any Church than a vigorously conducted temperance organization connected therewith. Such an organization will often lure men from the taverns, and bring them under the sound of the gospel. The adoption of total abstinence will, in many cases, sweep and garnish the house for the entrance of the Heavenly Guest, and banish therefrom the evil spirits of intemperance and vice that held riot there. It will cast out the vile weeds that preoccupy the ground, and prepare the soul for the seeds of divine truth.

The temperance reform ought to be an essential part of the organization of the Church, rather than something foreign to it. If thus identified with the Church it will secure its moral support and receive the sympathy of the religious community. It will enlist more directly the co-operation of pastors and influential persons. It will educate and develop a temperance conscience in the community. It will train up the children in the principles of total abstinence. The Sunday-school will become a juvenile Temperance Society, and the rising generation will be imbued with an abhorrence of strong drink.