

unlawful profits. Nay, they mingled with them that they might teach them the way of life, and turn them from their evil ways. Let the ministers of Christ deal as faithfully with worldlings and erring Christians as Christ did with Simon and other Pharisees; and then there cannot be too much mingling with them. But if they cannot do this then they should not be ashamed to be, like ancient Israel, a "people dwelling alone," and they should remember that New Testament believers are required to "be a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

Professing Christians who try to prevent Christ's servants from discussing this theme assume a heavy responsibility before God, similar to that which the ancient Jews assumed when they opposed God's prophets, and thus brought on themselves and their children the wrath of God which culminated in the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the nation over the whole earth. We would affectionately say to all such, beware lest you fight against God, and bring on yourselves and your children the displeasure of that holy Being who will not permit his authority and his efforts to save men to be trampled on with impunity.

1. Mark the extent of this vice. The "Church of England Chronicle" stated a few months ago that 60,000 drunkards die yearly in Britain. This we believe according to others is below the mark, and the best authorities hold that a greater number perish annually in the United States of America—say 150,000 drunkards—dying yearly in the two most Christian countries in the world. Then if we add 100,000 for all the rest of the world, we have 250,000 destroyed yearly by this traffic. And this awful destruction goes on steadily year by year out of an army of 800,000 to 1,000,000 drunkards. It thus causes far more misery than war, famine and slavery combined. Each of these has had many mitigating circumstances which this evil has not. The relatives of those who fall in war have the sympathy and support of the nation. The victims of slavery war: not alienated from each other, the men did not embitter the lives of their wives and children, but they became more endeared to each other. None of these victims left a heritage of evil habits—disgrace and woe to their children. And the immediate victims of these evils were not thereby condemned to eternal death. But not only are these 250,000 yearly destroyed for time, but alas! for eternity as well, for God declares, "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven." This, then, is evidently the greatest evil of modern times, and it is the duty of the ministers of Christ to form and lead public opinion on this subject, and of all Christians to co-operate with them in earnest, united and unceasing endeavours to remove this great evil from Christian society.

All this evil is caused by the liquor traffic. This traffic thus yearly fills 250,000 homes with shame and sorrow; loads the public with the burden of pauperism, crowds prisons with felons, detracts from the productive industry of the country, ruins fortunes, and disappoints hopes. It breeds disease and wretchedness, and hands them down to future generations, and thus vastly increases the sum of human misery; and in the case of its victims it destroys both body and soul forever. This evil army is continually enlisting fresh recruits from among unwary youths in all our families, often bringing disgrace and sorrow on the leading families of the land, yea, corrupting with its vile appetite otherwise pure women, and changing them into besotted creatures that cause loathing and disgust. It destroys many in the learned professions—doctors and lawyers—and thus disappoints the expectations of their friends as well as their own hopes of success. And, alas! it does not spare even the sacred profession of the Christian ministry. It fired the brain and maddened the mind of the assassin who not long since violently took the life of one of the ablest statesmen of our Dominion, and one of the most honoured citizens of Toronto—the Hon. George Brown.

What is very sad is, that by far the greatest amount of drunkenness is found among the northern, the most Christian nations, which is a great hindrance to the success of the Gospel at home, and to their efforts to send the Gospel abroad. Dr. Guthrie tells that a statesman of the continent of Europe declared that were it not for their drunkenness, the Anglo-Saxon race, by their energy and aggressive character, would rule the world. Let any one who wishes to form an impressive idea of the nature and extent of this traffic, take his stand at the door of the leading saaloons or gin-palaces in London, England, and observe the vast numbers that enter in a single evening, and that shew

by their bloodshot eyes and look of misery that they are fast going down the road to eternal woe. Let him follow them to their homes, and mark their conduct and habits, the quarrelling, crime and misery that flow from this monster vice of the age, and will he not be ready to exclaim, How long, O Lord, gracious and loving, wilt Thou not arise and stay this fearful traffic, and save these precious souls from going down to death and woe?

All our cities, towns, and villages have a large number of "low grogeries" called "saaloons," one of Satan's tricks to deceive. The term saaloon was applied originally to something grand and attractive. So in order to appear respectable, and to attract the unwary, this high-sounding term has been applied to these dangerous traps for the people which are unwisely permitted by the legislature of our country. There may be lower dens of iniquity, but, at least, they are not *licensed* or sanctioned by public authority. Hotels, or places of public entertainment, we must have, and we have nothing to say against them so long as they confine themselves to their proper purpose. But what shall we say of over five hundred places in Toronto where there is nothing but the liquor, sold by the glass, and where many are taught to drink, and become the slaves of this debasing appetite, and are thus ensnared to their destruction and to the untold misery of all connected with them. What are they but places for making drunkards, and bringing on society all the evils we have described?

It is long since that self-denying and devoted servant of Christ, John Wesley, warned those engaged in that traffic that the money made by it is the *price of blood—the blood of souls*—and that, unless they repent, it will sink them to destruction.

I am not the enemy of these men by speaking thus plainly. I am not the enemy of any man—I wish well to all, and would gladly, if I could, increase the *prosperity* and happiness of all the people of Toronto, of Canada, and of the world. I am only following in the footsteps of the blessed Saviour who faithfully warned men of the necessary result of their evil ways, and then wept when they would not harken to Him.

2. Then think of the expense of this traffic. Mr. Wm. Hoyle, M.P. for Dewsbury, England, addressing the electors last spring, said that the question of temperance was one of vital importance. He stated that during the last seven years the large total had been spent of £987,000,000 or £200,000,000 more than the national debt of Great Britain. And this was not all, for it cost about £100,000,000 more to pay for the mischief it caused. That gave a cost of £241,000,000, or about \$1,200,000,000 yearly for their drunk bill! He says that if they deducted £41,000,000 for revenue, it still left £200,000,000 as the cost to the nation every year, or £8,000,000 more than the foreign trade of England—and that when the expenditure for bread is only about £75,000,000, and the great charitable and missionary institutions of the country only receive about £2,000,000. About one-seventh of the grain of Great Britain is wasted on this traffic, when thousands of the people are on the verge of starvation and living in abject poverty.

There are about 300,000 places where liquor is sold in Great Britain, and these are doing more to hinder God's cause than the 35,000 ministers of religion can do to advance it. As the result mainly of intemperance they have 3,000,000 persons applying yearly for parish relief in that very wealthy country, 85,000 lunatics in their asylums; 60,000 convicted of crime, at least 250,000 vagrants roaming about the country, and about 120,000 brought annually to a premature grave.

The Hon. Wm. E. Dodge, United States Senator and Presbyterian elder, stated at the Council last July held at Philadelphia, that there are 175,000 places where intoxicating liquors are sold in the United States, involving a direct outlay and waste of not less than \$700,000,000, and an indirect loss to the country by crime and pauperism of \$700,000,000 more, and that this results in the destruction of 100,000 lives yearly. It is said that not less than ten millions of barrels of beer were drunk in the United States last year. Mr. Dodge shewed that in Maine before prohibition there was one drunkard for every fifty-five of the population, and one million gallons of spirits were distilled annually, while the liquor bill amounted to \$10,000,000. Since prohibition there is not a distillery or brewery in the State, the recent sale of liquor amounting to the merest fraction of the former quantity sold, whereas the death rate has been reduced from fifty-five to one in three hundred of her population.

Mr. Dodge stated that in Vineland, New Jersey, where there is a prohibitory law, not a criminal case has occurred in twelve months; while the great prosperity of Johnsbury (Vermont), and of Canterbury and other places in England and Ireland, as the result of prohibition, has been remarked by every visitor and traveller.

It has been generally held by judges, magistrates, sheriffs, chaplains of prisons, and others in positions enabling them to judge, that three-fourths to four-fifths of the crime and misery existing in Great Britain and the United States are the result of the liquor traffic, with all the enormous burdens this inflicts on society. That is, the governments of these two Christian countries sanction the destruction of 150,000 lives yearly, and the waste of two thousand six hundred millions of dollars for the sake of about three hundred and fifty millions of dollars of revenue, while impoverishing or hindering the prosperity of the country, at least, six times as much thereby.

The same proportion holds good for Canada. Mr. George W. Ross, M.P. for Middlesex, Ont., shewed some time ago that the liquor traffic costs us in this fair Dominion \$40,000,000 yearly, or ten dollars per head for every man, woman and child, and about as much indirectly. We may reckon 8,000 victims of this traffic in Canada, and all this sanctioned by law for the sake of about \$5,000,000 revenue.

3. Is this traffic, that causes so much evil and misery, necessary for health or strength? No, longevity is promoted by total abstinence from all intoxicants. The English life assurance companies have taken great care in collecting statistics of life, health and disease; they find that more than three drinkers die for one abstainer (357 to 110). Two thousand of the most eminent physicians of Europe and America, from court physicians to country practitioners, signed the following certificate: "That a very large proportion of human misery, including poverty, disease and crime, is induced by the use of alcoholic or fermented beverages. That the most perfect health is compatible with total abstinence from all such beverages, whether in the form of ardent spirits, or as wine, beer, ale, porter, etc. That total or universal abstinence from alcoholic beverages of all sorts, would greatly contribute to the *health*, the prosperity, the morality, and the happiness of the human family." A similar statement was signed by Dr. Campbell, Dean of Faculty, McGill College, Montreal, and by ninety-six of the ablest physicians of that city. The most eminent physicians of the age declare that alcohol is not *food* in any sense, but a poison or medical drug; that it seriously injures the brain, liver and stomach, that it passes off by the excretory organs without being assimilated; and that while it acts as a whip or excitant, it weakens and deranges the powers and shortens life. Such were the views of the late eminent Dr. Miller of Edinburgh, Dr. F. R. Lees, Dr. Carpenter (in his "Physiology of Temperance") and Dr. D. B. Richardson, now one of the most eminent physicians of England. Sir Benjamin Brodie, Sir James Clarke and others declare that man in ordinary health, like other animals, requires no such stimulants as wine, beer or spirits, and "cannot be benefited by any quantity of them, large or small, nor will their use during life increase the aggregate amount of his labour. In whatever quantity they are employed they will *rather tend to diminish it*." Liebig, the prince of physiologists and chemists, says, that "he who uses intoxicants, draws, so to speak, a bill on his health, which must always be renewed, because for want of means he cannot take it up. He consumes his capital instead of his interest, and the result is the inevitable bankruptcy of the body." The leading chemists tell us that alcohol causes diseases of the vital organs, debilitates the vigour of the physical system, while it weakens the mind and promotes in both premature decay. Sir Astley Cooper says, "We have all been in error in recommending wine as a tonic. *Ardent spirits and poison are convertible terms*." The stimulus given is not strength, it is always exceeded by the subsequent depression. In the presence of the highest medical authorities of the world, what then is the value of the opinions of some that liquors are food and that such stimulants are necessary?

Some tell us that "the normal condition of man is not total abstinence but temperance." Now, we ask, what is temperance but the moderate use of that which is beneficial and entire abstinence from that which is injurious? It is surely evident from what we have set forth that the use of alcoholic liquors is both un-