

self-renouncing help-mate, have all been *legally* but cruelly devoured. The retail dealer takes the prey, the wholesale merchant and the manufacturer furnish the means, the government superintends the trade in blood, and all are sharers in the spoils.

As the *adversary* is ever active, ever seeking whom he may devour, ought not his opponents to be ever vigilant, ever on the guard? Steadfast, that is, resolutely unwavering in the faith which totally abstains from evil, which prohibits the cup of devils, should they not employ the means prescribed both by reason and revelation, as best adapted to resist his ravages? Let it not be forgotten that he is crafty and treacherous, let all avoid the paths of the destroyer lest he tear the soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver." The roaring lion is often noiseless in his motions, and his artifices more to be dreaded than his open hostilities. Amusements denominated innocent, business designated lawful, fashions considered harmless, pursuits the most admired, and characters most applauded, have often proved a snare. The pleas of avarice, ambition, and above all other the pleas of appetite, have been with fatal efficacy employed in favor of inebriating beverage. Even the plea of moderation, of moderation however cautiously indulged, does in various ways "give occasion to the adversary." The moderate drinker may declaim with zeal sincere and argument unanswerable, against the evils of excess; but example, more forcible than precept, will "put a stumbling block, or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." These delusive pleas are but "the depths of Satan." The advice of Solomon is peculiarly appropriate in the case of the moderate drinker. "Enter not into the paths of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men, avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away." What path so wicked as that in which they err through wine, what way more evil than that wherein they "follow strong drink," in which "hell hath enlarged herself and opened her mouth without measure." Those who plead for the moderate use, however "wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight," are, by inspired authority, closely associated with those that are "mighty to drink wine and men of strength to mingle strong drink." Against both, unless they cease drinking, the enemy "shall come with speed swiftly." Of both it may be speedily recorded, "their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets." Those "that rise up early in the morning that they follow strong drink," very soon, by force of habit, will continue until night, till wine inflame them, and in the end "many houses shall be desolate." The total abstainer may say, in reference to the oracles of God, "by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer," but the moderate drinker, by imperceptible gradations increasing his indulgence, becomes the victim of excess. The adversary shall "lay hold of the prey, and shall carry it away safe, and none shall deliver it." In defiance of these Divine denunciations, it is preposterous, it is blasphemous to assert that Scripture countenances the use of intoxicating drinks. Granting that the word of God allows the moderate use of unintoxicating wine to men in health, that it prescribes a *little* medicinal wine to the sick, or opiated wine to those condemned to a painful death, it by no means follows that fermented liquors and distilled spirits, either in excess or moderation, are sanc-

tioned by Divine authority. That authority is ever consistent, and hence it is most agreeable to the analogy of faith to maintain that the things commended in the word of God are diverse, both in their nature and tendency, from the things therein condemned; that the various beverages it approves are innocent, and, though denoted by the same expression, widely different from those which it denounces as being pernicious and destructive.

Against the temperance reformation there is, as a matter of course, a mighty opposition. The lion is greedy of his prey. Tenacious of his spoils, "who shall rouse him up?" He evidently feels the force of his assailants, but still undaunted maintains a bold and fearless aspect. Resolute in defending what he deems his rights, set against all invasion of his liberty, *his license to take the prey*, he roars with rage upon restrictive legislation. "He lifts up himself as a young lion," and as a lion rampant, "he will not lie down until he eat of the prey and drink the blood of the slain." In the vicinity of such a foe, neutrality is dangerous, apathy destructive. Talent, interest, reputation, moral obligation, are all concerned. The talents of temperance advocates are undervalued. Their principles and arguments are ridiculed. They are accused of meanness, parsimony, and singularity. It is said that men of sense discountenance the temperance movement; that ease, fashion, influence, sociality, should it prevail, must all be sacrificed. It is still pertinaciously objected, despite all proof to the contrary, that Scripture countenances the inebriating drink, and that what the laws of heaven allow, the laws of earth may not prohibit. Truly "they have compassed our steps, they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth like as a lion that is greedy of his prey." Strong, bold in defence of their booty, they may not be easily subdued, the dens of destruction may not be rashly assailed.

In certain localities they have been hunted with success. The lion has literally become a lamb, taverns have been transformed into temperance houses. Distilleries in some places have imperceptibly diminished in number. *The License to Devour* has been, by several legislatures, repealed, and the traffic in alcohol prohibited. The Maine Law has become a fact. It is evident that the foe, though fierce, is not invincible; the captor may be captured, the lion may be chained. His lurking places are not free from molestation. Total abstinence legally enforced, like a mighty river in its course, appears destined by Divine direction to effect the extermination of the *adversary*. So impetuous is its current, that it not unfrequently overflows, and by its inundations drives him from his ambushments upon its banks. "Behold," says the inspired oracle, "he shall come up like a lion from the swellings of Jordan against the habitations of the strong."

But in the haunts of intemperance Satan possesses a variety of coverts, and when driven from one he resorts to another. Pressed by the ardor of pursuit he may retire to places less exposed to observation; but, when circumstances admit, he readily returns. Often, in places whence he had been long since ejected, he suddenly re-appeared. Hence the importance of the caution,—*be sober, be vigilant*. Suspicious of evil, in peace keep in readiness for war. At times the foe may seem very peaceably disposed, but this pacific character is a mere disguise, assumed in order to a