

Often their children became drunkards, and wasted all their earnings, or fire destroyed their property, or some misfortune happened to them. The reason is plain, "the blessing of the Lord it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow." But that blessing cannot be expected by those engaged in such a business; and without the Divine blessing there can be no true or lasting prosperity. The whole history of the world and the Church proves this. Then let all who desire the Divine favour, and the only true happiness which is inseparable from that, for themselves and their children, avoid having anything to do with a business which strikes at the root of the well-being of mankind, and which seriously hinders the Divine glory and the salvation of the world. I will give a few examples of how others have acted, when they became convinced that this traffic was wrong in the sight of God, and injurious to their fellow-men. Over fifty years ago, and before the prohibition movement, Dr. Lyman Beecher visited Portland, and preached in one of the Congregational churches a sermon on the evils of the liquor traffic. One of the leading deacons was a liquor seller, and he was so convinced by the doctor's earnest appeal, that he went home resolved to give it up, and he did so, at a great sacrifice of his own interest financially, though a great gainer as a Christian in the consciousness of the smile of heaven resting upon him and his.

In Boston there were two partners in the sale of liquors along with groceries. One became convinced that it was wrong, and gave it up, and prospered greatly through the blessing of the Lord resting on his business; and, besides, he became the means of doing much good in the Church—the Lord owning his efforts for the good of others—and his children did well. The other continued the sale of liquor and went to the bad—his children took to drink, and his business failed, and all went against him because he stifled the voice of conscience and of God. In like