

We deal with men in the Court of Conscience, and judge them not by their actions only, but by the principles which guide their actions.

Thus we say to the slaveholder: You shall not be admitted to church-fellowship, because if you trample upon the dearest rights of your brother man, you do not love the brother you have seen, and how can you love him whom you have not seen? And so we say to the liquor dealer: You are pandering to those passions and vices of men which most impede the cause of Christ, and placing stumbling blocks in the way over which multitudes of your fellow-men fall and perish—we cannot receive you.

But we go farther. Viewed in the light of the higher law, the same rule applies to the person who tempts his fellow into the snare of drinking. It is the Christian's duty to be on the Lord's side against every form of vice, but especially against any social evil which attains to prominence. How much more then against one which is the active cause of nearly all the crime of the day, and which is slaying its victims daily by thousands, even around our own doors; and shall the Church be mute when its members put the wine cup to the lips of our young men, saying with the serpent, "Ye shall not surely die?"

Shall we fellowship with those who thus promote the unfruitful works of darkness; or shall our churches put their ban on so active a form of vice?

Shall we go farther, and refuse to fellowship with those who personally indulge in the use of stimulants?

Not just yet, for although it is the logical and proper course to adopt, it might in the present tone of society be as casting our pearls before swine. But we can picture the blank astonishment of our sons and grandsons as they look back and see how we played with the scorpion till it stung to death the spiritual life of many, and originated more cases of disciplinary rebuke than all other sources combined, and we could not see it or dared not recognize it. The time will come when they will arise and take vengeance on all these ungodly customs.

But there are some things on which we need not only to be right, but to ap-

pear right, and in order to this we would have the churches, one and all, speak out decidedly.

1st. It is time that it should be known that a liquor seller cannot be received into the fellowship of any Congregational church in the land. Therefore, let every church look its duty squarely in the face, and if by oversight the evil exists, let them at once put away the accursed thing from among them.

2nd. Another thing on which we can act not only as churches, but as a denomination jointly. We can say to our Home Missionary Society, we will not aid you to sustain any pastor or missionary who is not entirely divorced from alcoholic beverages. Perhaps this may not be necessary, for there may not be a single one who is unsound on this question; but let the Missionary Society brand the drinking usages as an evil thing which they will not now or ever tolerate.

It is said that many years ago, when the American Missionary Association was organized, the late Arthur Taffen, with his brother Louis, succeeded in placing among the rules of that association, that they would not employ any missionary who was not a total abstainer from intoxicating liquors, and also from the use of tobacco in all its forms; and they were right, for both are in alliance with the powers of darkness, and it is right that we should say to our messengers to the weak churches, we will not employ any who are not in perfect accord with the work we aim to promote.

3rd. We cannot say to our churches you must not accept as pastors any who are not in harmony with the general views of the denomination; they are free and independent; but we can agitate and let in the light until the evil, if it exists, will disappear.

Lastly, I would say, let there be a department in the churches, not for the discussion of Temperance topics generally, but of specific and denominational action in regard thereto, wherein we can strike home to our own sins as men and churches, until the atmosphere shall be cleansed of this social miasma, and we can say of our position as a denomination to other denominations. Choose