

our personal and political influence, not merely to secure the enactment of such laws as may seem to mitigate the evil, but also to secure the wise and faithful administration of such excellent enactments on the subject as exist on the Statute Book. There has been much excellent legislation in the right direction, for which we ought to be thankful. "But the popular feelings and tastes are too strong to permit the full benefits of the laws being realized. We ought, therefore, to do our best to leaven the public mind with right views on the subject.

Still further, we may, and should deal directly with drunkards, both with those who are confirmed drunkards, and with those who are evidently in danger of becoming confirmed drunkards. We should try to rescue them. We should reason and plead with them. We should tell them earnestly and affectionately of the misery they are bringing upon themselves and their families. We should tell them of their guilt before God. We should tell them that they are virtually guilty of murder and suicide—that they are shortening their own lives, and the lives of others. We should tell them of the fearful destiny which awaits the drunkard—a destiny which involves misery and woe, compared with which all the shame and anguish endured in this world are but as a drop to the ocean. We should tell them, at the same time, of the mercy of God in Christ which is ready to forgive their past sins, and of the grace which is able in the future to keep them from falling. Such reasonings God has often blessed; and such reasonings, therefore, we may hopefully urge.

We may, and I think ought, to do more. Paul says (Rom. xiv, 21,) "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth or is offended or is made weak," and also, (1 Cor. viii, 13,) "If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." Acting on the principles thus indicated—the principles of Christian charity and Christian expediency—we are called on to deny ourselves the use of intoxicating drinks by which so many of our brethren and kindred are destroyed. I enter not now into any discussion as to whether, in any circumstances, it may be lawful to use as a beverage such wines or strong drinks as are now generally used. I ask you to consider the