

of civilization, as their conduct, in private and in public, is more and more actuated by Christian principles, the resort to arms and the use of stimulants will become less common.

Look at another great question—the prevention of disease. What could seem more natural than that nations, local authorities, and private persons should separately and collectively strive to uproot the causes of suffering? What does observation show? That private persons, who could often do much in their own households, are satisfied with giving their assent to certain general propositions; there they stop. Though knowing that attention to food, clothing, ventilation, exercise, and temperance is of extreme importance, and rests wholly with each householder, in his private capacity, and cannot be undertaken successfully by anyone else, they habitually and systematically disregard the laws of health, meanwhile, perhaps, complaining of the supineness of local authorities, and of the incompetence of Government. At all times private persons throw on municipal authorities the onus of carrying out measures, no doubt important enough, as sewerage, the removal of decomposing substances, and other matters requiring corporate action, but of themselves not sufficient to preserve the general health. To show their appreciation, however, of these corporate measures, they obstruct the local sanitary officials as much as they possibly can, and grudge every penny spent on large and well-considered improvements. Local bodies, again, after complaining of the folly of householders, relieve their conscience by throwing the blame on the Government of the country, on scientific men, on some one or another not on the spot. And Parliament and its servants throw the blame with exemplary impartiality on the country, the various local boards, and on householders.

What else can we expect? The prevention of disease is in one sense simple, in another most difficult. Given enlightened and high-principled people, alive to their own interests, wise, self-restrained, determined to act like men, and the few matters they could not themselves attend to would be placed in