

he could not thus injure his brother, without subjecting himself to reproach upon serious and prayerful reflection:— and observe the addition, “For the earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof”—and “therefore (as Dr. Doddridge paraphrases it) thou mayest reasonably hope he will provide for thee some other way; and mayest be assured that he cannot want the *means* of doing it.” The satisfaction of mind, the peace, the joy, which the testimony of a good conscience, and the evidence of true religion which such a sacrifice, *from such motives*, will afford, will richly compensate for whatever may be surrendered to secure it. When the laws of Christ’s kingdom are thus regarded,—when *love to Him* makes obedience easy and cheerful, the *blessings* of his kingdom are richly enjoyed. If you have never made the experiment of surrendering *your* will to the will of God, when to do so required some struggle with the selfish principle of our nature, you are yet a stranger to the most elevated, tender, and improving emotions of which the soul is susceptible. Christians! Let us seek to be more prepared to give up *every thing* that would be prejudicial to the interests of religion in ourselves or others, and we shall realize the truth of the declaration—“He shall restore what you resign—or grant you blessings more divine.”

With regard to all fermented liquors, I would say to every individual, **ABSTAIN FROM THEM ALTOGETHER**, if it be only upon the lowest principle we have adverted to—*a regard to your own happiness*;—let your mind be disabused of the common error, that they are not only *lawful*, but *good* and *healthful* beverages for the ordinary use of life; and especially for supporting the animal frame under fatigue, or restoring it after exhaustion. The foundation principle upon which we would argue with those who will not view the subject in the *scriptural* light in which we have endeavoured to place it before you is this,—and it is a fact in physical science, that **STIMULATING IS NOT STRENGTHENING**, but on the contrary is *weakening* and *impairing*. Let this be but correctly understood, and then well considered in its various applications, and I have little doubt as to the result. One principal inference is, that spirits, whether diluted or not, should be regarded only as a *medicine*, and that it is a medicine falling under the class of *vegetable poisons*; whose operation on the human frame is the commission of a certain degree of invasion, in order to counteract a greater immediate derangement. It is a balancing of two evils, and, under the presence of an exigency, a submission to the