

not rather given it life, vigour and activity ? We may safely affirm that a large proportion of moderate drinkers have become, and are constantly becoming, drunkards ; and, that no man ever became a drunkard who was not previously a moderate drinker. Would you, then, pursue a path in which many had been destroyed, when you might follow one in which all had gone safely ? Would you, by moderate drinking, expose yourself to the danger of eventual ruin, while by practising Total Abstinence you would incur no risk ?

By far the greater part of those articles which are generally used for food or drink, produce no feverish appetite, or unnatural desire. Bread or milk, however long they may be used, have no tendency to create any ungovernable craving. The use of some other substances, however, has an opposite effect. The person who chews or smokes tobacco is apt to acquire a relish for it which can be overcome only by great self-denial. To this class of substances belong all intoxicating liquors. By their frequent use an appetite is produced which is resisted with extreme difficulty ; and hence, till a change takes place in the nature of things, moderate drinking must produce intemperance.

The plan for arresting intemperance which we would recommend is—Abstinence from all that intoxicates. We do not affirm that, considered in itself, the use of intoxicating liquors is unlawful, nor do we assert that it is absolutely forbidden in the Scriptures. We think that, on this point, some of the friends of Temperance allow their zeal to outstrip their discretion, and by proceeding too far, injure, rather than promote, the cause which they advocate.

This assertion will, perhaps, lead some to accuse us of hostility to the cause of Temperance. To this we would answer, that the best causes are seriously injured by the use of arguments which cannot be maintained. When an argument is discovered to be weak, many immediately conclude that the cause in favour of which it is adduced, is bad ; even while it may be supported by other evidence that is irresistible. While, however, we believe the use of intoxicating liquors is not forbidden in the Bible, we believe that Total Abstinence Societies, when rightly constituted, rest on a Scriptural basis. To this basis we shall now turn your attention.