

is not this a curse indeed? Will not the woe here denounced be awfully realized, if you, by mingling with such company as you are drawing around you, become yourselves regardless of religion and the concerns of eternity, despisers of the Gospel of Christ, and so familiarized with vice, as neither to hate nor to shun it; and find yourselves, at death, excluded from the Kingdom of Heaven, with the same companions with whom you so willingly associated here on earth? And will not the woe here threatened, be still further realized in your unhappy experience, should you also, (which is but too probable,) see your own children at a future period, or perhaps your other relatives, drinking deep of the same cup which you have measured out to others, and descending with them, besotted, into eternal misery. These are some of the ways in which a righteous God generally inflicts the curse here pending; but he can do it in a thousand other ways; and, be assured, the judgments of Heaven will not always sleep. There is a time of retribution coming. Jehovah has said it, and it must come to pass. Woe must overtake, sooner or later, him who persists, in defiance of this proclamation, "in giving drink to his neighbor, in putting his bottle to him, and making him drunken," for in so doing, he is destroying his health, his character, his property, his usefulness, his temporal life, and what is of more value than all these, his immortal soul, for drunkards cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.

If we judge men by their fruits, or their conduct, which is the criterion given by Christ, there is certainly much ground to fear, that the Retailers of ardent spirits here, are themselves experiencing a reaction of that moral pestilence which they are spreading around them. Is religion prospering among them? We have certainly no evidence of it; but much of a contrary kind. Many are becoming themselves the victims of intemperance; and who among all this class of persons, show any thing like anxiety about the advancement of religion around them, in the community? Who comes forward with any degree of zeal or liberality, to devise and execute measures for furthering the Gospel of Christ—for training up the young in the fear of God, or for the advancement of any thing that involves the best interests of mankind? Surely it is none of these. Nor is this to be expected. The man who makes his house or shop the constant resort for the intemperate and profane, must be continually surrounded with reviling, and quarrelling, and drunkenness, and blasphemy. It would be wonderful indeed, if in