

of the struggle. In addressing to you these observations we address you as citizens, and would remind each voter of what he owes to his conscience, to his country and to his God when he goes to the ballot box to fulfil the duty of citizenship there. He who casts his vote for an aspirant to public office who will not pledge his word to use his influence to put away the reproach and curse and shame of this vile trade, the enemy of every other trade and of every form of religion, accepts responsibility for all the consequences flowing from it. But addressing you as members of the Methodist Church, we say that our safe and wise course in the behalf of Temperance lies along the straight road of moral suasion. There is no need that as a Church we should enter the political arena in this or any other struggle. We are non-political. Adhering to our historical attitude in this respect, we shall exert all the more influence in not only helping to bring to a happy issue this righteous war upon our country's greatest foe, but in helping to bring to a happy issue every other question involving the moral and religious welfare of the people. What is meant here is that we should refrain as a Church from dabbling constantly, as if we were a political body, in the current business of legislatures, and keep ourselves more strongly to our more legitimate calling of creating a proper conscience on all matters of morality in our people. Not that it would be wrong for us, on a great question like this, when the set time is come, using our whole strength to aid in carrying a prohibitory law.

The foundation of society is the family. As is the average family so is the nation. We are on every account then deeply concerned that the homes of our people should be made pure and bright by a Godly example and discipline. We appeal to you, Christian fathers and mothers. Are you ordering your house in the fear of God? Is the morning and the evening sacrifice presented? If you would not have your own children, by and bye, dwell in homes forsaken of God, see to it that you lead them daily to the altar that sanctifies the home. The feverish competition in the race for riches, and the ever-increasing allurements to out-door life, which mark the times in which we live, endanger this pious practice. All the more, therefore, resolutely resolve, that that altar in your house shall not be broken down, so shall the honor that cometh of God be yours: "Them that honor Me I will honor." And as much as in you lieth, endeavor to make your home the most attractive spot on earth for those over whom you are placed in the parental relation. Resolve that, if it be possible, no son or daughter of yours shall be able to come upon sweeter delights elsewhere than those that gladden and brighten your own fireside. And this delightful achievement is happily within the reach of almost all.

Give the Bible its own place at home. Seek to secure for it the reverent respect of each member of your respective families. Make evident your own respect and love for it. Guard it as a holy thing. Pay it such daily tribute of esteem as its peculiar name and nature demand. Thus may you secure the reverence of your households for this divine treasure, and so the after life of those you love will not be, as alas! in too many instances it is, spoiled by a loose, trifling, or sceptical bearing towards the Book of books.

We think it next to impossible that you should have a well-regulated Christian home—a home under the restraining and elevating influences of religious truth—a home where reverence for sacred things shall mark the speech and manner of all who dwell therein, in the absence from your tables of periodicals of a sound religious character. While we rejoice in the constantly improving moral tone and power of the leading secular newspaper press, we yet believe that it cannot fill the void that is occasioned by the absence of the religious paper, pamphlet or magazine. Indeed we need neither hope nor fear that it will, since the ground occupied by the religious periodical does not come within the scope of the daily or weekly newspaper. In the homes of too many Methodist families no place is found for the publications of the distinctively religious press. This is in marked contrast to the avidity with which the early Methodists devoured such publications as nourished religious thought and feeling.