

to see their wretched condition while exposed to all the consequences of transgressing the Divine laws. All are liable to be attacked.—The worst members of society have been taken, and the best have also been among the victims of this awful malady.

Medical aid, in most cases, proves to be of but little service except in the very first symptoms of the disease; and in many instances the attack is so sudden and deadly, as to defy all human interference no matter how soon attempted. There yet remains much that is mysterious connected with this subject. It has elicited a great amount of speculation and experimenting, in medical science and practice; and all to little purpose. The first class of the medical profession in every part of the world where cholera has raged, have given the question every attention in their power. They have employed all the means available in the investigation; and yet but little is known as to the causes, nature, and remedy, of this malady. Twenty years investigation has made the profession but little, if any, wiser upon these points. The most that is known of the cholera is, that as a pestilence it has gone from land to land, spreading in every direction; and sweeping off hundreds of thousands of our race in its course!

Looking at the progress and ravages of this contagion, the question is forced upon the mind, What are its moral effects upon the people in places visited by it? It is an agent of Divine providence, doubtless, and employed for some wise purpose, not to make the world worse, but, to make it better. Surely if anything is capable of producing a deep solemn and moral impression on the mind, this must be. What can be better calculated to remind men that they are mortal, that the great business of this life should be to prepare for the one which is to come; and that those only are wise who prepare to meet their God? It is only in extreme cases, and where the ordinary means fail of accomplishing their intended end, that God has recourse to extraordinary measures. But in cases of the kind much will depend upon christians, and the churches. The great and principal agent employed to

save men from their sins, is the gospel; and when the world becomes so wicked that men will not be awakened, nor converted by this means; the Lord makes use of such means as are calculated to alarm sinners and lead them to obey the gospel. Not that any other agency is to do the work of the gospel, but they are employed to direct attention to the one grand agency, and to convince men that the doctrines and teachings of the word of God are true. It follows then that christians must do their duty, that the churches must be active; and that the gospel must be faithfully employed when the judgements of God are being visited upon a people, or they will not accomplish the end designed.

How great must be the responsibility of christians, and of christian ministers, provided our views of the subject are correct; and how deeply guilty they must be where they do not wake up, and discharge their duty faithfully, and fearlessly; in times such as the present.—These are solemn times. All may not be sensible of it, but many are; and all should be. There are those who could sport, gamble, and take the inebriating draught upon the coffin of a mother, or a wife! such are lost to all moral sentiment and influence, and make no distinction between the life of a man and that of a beast. Nothing but the sound of the Trump of God to bring the world to judgement will produce solemnity in their souls. They will sport on; the ravages of the destroying angel make no impression upon their minds. But all mankind are not of this class, and therefore it is to be hoped, at least, that this season of sickness and death will result in some moral and religious good to mankind. Christians should seize upon the occasion, and direct as many as possible to the only sure source of consolation and hope.

#### AN IMPROVEMENT.

IT will be seen that we have printed the greater part of this number of the *Gem* in smaller type than we have used for previous numbers; this is a decided improvement; as it enables us to give much more matter in the same space. We intend to print the future