

*will I require at the watchman's hand."* In view of this solemn warning, as a minister of the Gospel, "here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; so God help me."

I shall first lay before you some of the results of the Liquor Traffic, and then I shall consider the objections urged by the liquor dealers and their friends against the kind of legislation we are now seeking. Our antagonism to this traffic is not a mere sentiment or theory: it is based on unquestionable *facts*, many of them dark and dreadful enough. To a few of these I will now refer. Look first at

#### THE FINANCIAL EFFECT OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

While a Christian's conduct in a matter of moral right or wrong is never to be determined by the mere consideration of dollars and cents, yet, doubtless, in coming to a decision this is one element which, as a citizen and a Christian, he has a right not to overlook. Besides, our opponents are continually pressing this matter of finances upon us. How is the Government going to be supported, it is asked, if the Liquor Traffic is prohibited? To this we might reply, in the words of the great W. E. Gladstone, when he was Prime Minister of England. To a deputation of brewers who urged upon him the loss to the revenue by any step towards prohibition, he said: "Gentlemen, you need not give yourselves any trouble about the revenue. The question of revenue must never stand in the way of needed reform. Besides, with a sober population not wasting their earnings, I will know where to obtain the revenue." Lesser intellects than Gladstone's can understand that temperance will enrich a nation, whereas intemperance will as certainly impoverish and demoralize it. But, not to rest in a general statement, let us descend into particulars, and see the gain or loss to the country, financially, from this traffic. We will look at both sides of the account. On the credit side we put the amount annually received by the country for licenses, and for excise and import duties, amounting to the very large sum of \$5,000,000. This is all on that side. Now let us make up the debit side of the account. And first we put the salaries paid for collecting those licenses and duties—a very considerable sum. Then we have the amount paid for the prevention,