

God be true then, and every man a liar, and he says, "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth ; or is offended ; or is made weak." Let no one say it is only the *abuse* the Bible condemns. It is not the *abuse only but the thing itself*. It is not the abuse of polygamy murder, or theft, the Bible condemns, but these things themselves, so it is not the abuse of wine but wine itself. The prohibition is plain, "Be not among wine bibbers," "Look not thou upon the wine." "It is not the manner of God in his word to condemn an evil in its *end*, and be silent respecting its beginning." Man deals with evil consequences, and overlooks guilty causes ; but God removes the cause of the evil. He makes the fountain clean that the streams may be pure.

If then the Bible be a total abstinence book ; if God has uttered his voice in prohibition, ought not men to hear, ought not the CHURCH to hearken ; ought not especially Ministers, Deacons and Elders to put away the forbidden thing. On their action mainly depends the success or failure of the cause of temperance. Let the Church, but be aroused, and come up to the plain Bible standard ; and the grim, dark, deathly monster, now desolating this fair earth, will soon be driven back to his own place ; but while the church folds, and caresses him, he will continue to desolate, tear and slay. O could we