

against a foe, a thousand times more destructive to human life and happiness than all the wars of past or present times. "Touch not, taste not, handle not." You are quite sure if you take none you will never take too much. Above all, pray for God's strength and God's blessing on your vows and pledges. In this too many fail and therefore fall.

I believe Intemperance to be the curse of our country and of all others, and that it would be a most happy thing if "all that intoxicates" were banished for ever from among us, except for medicinal or artistic purposes. Meanwhile, if we cannot banish it entirely, let us fight against its poisonous effects. Use all your influence my young friends, against its use, speak against it, strive against it, advise against it, pray against it. But at the same time do it all in love, and with allowance for those who differ. We can not, all, in this, or any thing else, "see eye to eye." Violence does good to no cause, and I believe the one in question has been often injured by intemperate advocates.

In conclusion, my dear people, let us be quickened in every good word and work, by the serious aspect of the times in which we live. As regards the world at large, how closely do the solemn sayings of our Lord apply. As when he speaks of "wars and rumors of wars, nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom, earthquakes and pestilences in divers places, men's hearts failing them for fear and for locking after those things that are coming upon the earth." But amid "the shaking of the nations" let us see the hand of Him who "sitteth between the Cherubims, be the earth never so unquiet," and can make the "fierceness of man turn to His praise," bringing good out of evil. It is a season assuredly, for uttering with redoubled fervor the prayers of our church for "peace in our time," for "unity and concord" among all nations, and for the advent of those glorious days when the Prince of Peace shall have universal sway, and men shall not learn nor practise war any more. But as to this little corner of the world in which God has cast our happy lot, though mercifully free from war and other public calamities, we of course have had our changes and trials. How many of those familiar faces which were to be seen among us two years ago, are seen no more, leaving many a once happy dwelling shrouded in gloom. The year just closed especially, soon brought a heavy weight of sorrow in the loss of the ill-fated "City of Boston" to many families of our city, with whom the sympathy was univer-