

BLOOD-MONEY.

*Hab. 2.12 : "Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood,
and establisheth a city by iniquity."*

—O+O—

The "blood" of my text is the blood shed by the traffic in intoxicating liquor. The "woe" pronounced is upon the intelligent and responsible recipient of the revenue derived therefrom. For the confirmation of this interpretation I refer you to the chapter (from the first to the seventeenth verses) from which the scripture quoted is taken.

The only apology I have to offer as a minister of the gospel for treating the subject of the public revenue of our country from the sacred desk on God's holy day is because I find it in His word. I am to hear the word at "His mouth" and "declare it unto the people," so if you have any quarrel with me upon this subject I refer you to my Master from whom I have received my commission, and by whom I shall be judged. With Him you must settle this dispute.

From the summit of prophetic insight, through the telescope of inspiration, the prophet looked on and down to an age beyond his own. "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak. It shall not lie. Though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come (vs. 3)." Was our time and age included in that vision? "Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood and establisheth a city by iniquity." Does that woe in any degree rest upon all or any of our towns and cities? Let us see. The only way to safely and correctly answer this question is to inquire into the source of their origin and maintenance.