

ing through the streets; and never have gone beyond the limits of moderate drinking; and may therefore imagine that we are free from danger. It is far otherwise. It is from the class of sober men and moderate drinkers that the army of inebriates obtains its recruits. The moderate drinker of to-day may soon merge into the rank of drunkards. The habit of intemperance comes on imperceptibly, and grows apace. Let none of us, therefore, be high-minded, but fear. There is reason not only that our sensibilities should be aroused on behalf of others: we should have pity on ourselves, and shrink from the ruin to which we are liable.

But supposing all are alive to the fearful destruction which results from intemperance, the question arises: What is to be done? Shall we exhaust our sympathy with the victims of this fearful evil in mere tears and lamentations? Queen Esther did not resign herself to inaction when the ruin of her kindred was threatened. At the peril of her life she returned into the presence of Ahasuerus, that she might plead for their deliverance. At first, indeed, she hesitated; but when her uncle reminded her of her duty and her danger, she returned him the answer, "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shusan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day; I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go unto the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish." You know the result. She went to the king, and stayed not her efforts till the decree was virtually reversed and her kindred were safe. Should not we, in like manner, use efforts to prevent the death and desolation which spring from intemperance?

There are many things which we may, and ought to do. Thus, like Esther and the Jews, we should humble ourselves before God, confess our sins, and more particularly acknowledge our sin in being accessory, more or less directly, to the intemperance which so extensively prevails; for, if not drunkards ourselves, have we not in various ways given countenance to the intemperate habits of others? We may, moreover, and should plead with God to have mercy upon the community afflicted with such a fearful calamity. As Moses, Samuel, and Daniel pleaded successfully with God for their perishing kindred, so may we. We should also use

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