

ADDRESS, &c.

THE Christian is not permitted by his Divine Master to neglect any duty ; but is enjoined to walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. One class of duties, however, may sometimes claim more of our attention than others. We are most loudly called upon to oppose that sin which is most extensively prevalent ; and, especially, if it threaten to overwhelm society.—Who does not see that this is now the case ? Has not Intemperance come in like a flood ? Does it not threaten universal ruin ? Has it not spread untold misery through families, neighbourhoods and nations ? Has it not entered even the hallowed precincts of the sanctuary, and cast down many who seemed to be steadily walking in the way to Heaven. Surely, then, it is especially the duty of those who profess to follow the Saviour, strenuously to resist the progress of this enemy. Suffer, therefore, the word of exhortation from those, who watch for your souls as they that must give account.

By what means, you may perhaps ask, is the progress of Intemperance to be arrested ? Some will say that nothing more is necessary than to be moderate in the use of intoxicating liquors.—To this we reply, that moderate drinking is the very source of the evil. It is the nursery in which it is reared—in which it spreads its roots, shoots forth its branches, and is prepared to yield its bitter fruits. As well might you expect, by pouring oil on the flame, to quench its violence, as by moderate drinking to arrest the progress of Intemperance. If this plan had never been tried, some hope of its success might have been entertained ; but, weighed in the balance of long and invariable experience, it is found wanting. By its results, the only certain criterion of efficiency, let us estimate the value of moderate drinking, as a remedy for intemperance. Has it ever effectually opposed this vice ? Has it