

to be a little thing for a boy or girl to say "No" when asked to take a glass of wine, but it will have a mighty influence upon the future character and history of that child. Having said "No" in the face of example and custom, and against strong pressure, once, will enable him to say "No" to other temptations, and under other circumstances. It is the first step in a path that will often be steep and rugged, but a path that leads to glory and honour. It is to the child a battle which, ending in victory, will nerve him for future conflicts, and will do something towards placing him at last among those who, having overcome, shall inherit all things.

This most desirable object will not be accomplished without opposition and difficulty. Some hoary prejudices will stand in the way, and early-formed habits will sorely hamper some whose co-operation is most desirable; but the object contemplated is so immense, so important, and so pressing, that it ought to be earnestly and prayerfully attempted at once. Christian men have but to understand the fearful peril to which the children are exposed, in order to be prepared to make a sacrifice—ay, even a great sacrifice—in order to preserve them from ruin. Selfishness and Christianity are diametrically opposed. We are not to live to ourselves. We are our children's keepers.

Methodism has publicly declared that "it should be the rule of our lives to take no step where the weak brother may not safely follow." There are but two paths open to the children—one is the broad, winding, indefinite, path of moderation, the path by which every drunkard reached the way of darkness, and despair; and the plain, clear, safe, path of total abstinence. The children—with faith in our wisdom, and love beaming from every face—ask us, as individuals, and as Churches, "Which way shall we take?" Surely, surely we shall not hesitate; but, taking them by the hand, shall lead them to the path of total abstinence, and say by our words, and our lives, "This is the way, walk ye in it."