

THE

BIBLE AND THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

THE advocates of Total Abstinence are sometimes met with the astounding statement that in their condemnation of all intoxicating liquors they are acting in opposition to the Scriptures of Divine Truth, that they, in fact, are contravening the revealed will of God. In support of this amazing assertion a few well-worn texts are adduced, in which something translated wine in our version is spoken of with seeming commendation, and the extremely illogical inference is drawn that therefore modern alcoholic and intoxicating liquors have the Divine sanction and approval. These champions of the liquor traffic are strangely forgetful of the fact that for every text which even apparently commends the use of wine or strong drink there are three that, with the most solemn warning, admonitions and threatenings, plainly and emphatically denounce it. This is something, surely, that should somewhat lessen the confidence of those who claim the warrant of Scripture for the drinking usages of society.

Before critically examining the texts of Scripture bearing on this subject it may be well to notice the *a priori* probability, or the reverse, of the Divine commendation and sanction of intoxicating liquor.

It is universally admitted, or if denied by any, it is demonstrated by the amplest and most irrefragable evidence, that the drinking system is the greatest evil of the age, that it ruins the health, wastes the substance, degrades the character, and destroys the life of multitudes of human beings every year; that it withers every moral virtue and stimulates every vice; that it is the fruit-