

Acting under a commission like this, I cannot stand by in silence, and see Intemperance entering like a flood among us, and sweeping away religion, morality, and every thing good, in its progress; and defeating, to a great extent, every scheme devised for the improvement and salvation of the present and succeeding generations, and satisfy myself that I am acting faithfully as a Minister of Religion. Nor can I see immortal beings on all sides of me, losing fast, all relish and all regard, for every thing laudable, under the stupifying and demoralizing influence of strong drink; many drowning all sense of present duty, and all thoughts of future responsibility, in the cup of intoxication, and many descending utterly besotted into the lowest Hell; (for if there is truth in the Word of God, this is the inevitable allotment of every man who dies a drunkard,) and others readily and deliberately, countenancing and helping them forward in their progress to temporal and eternal ruin, and say in truth, that my hands are free from the blood of these men, while I open not my lips to warn them from their danger, nor make any attempt to stop the current of intemperance, so awfully baneful to us in its progress.

A SENSE of duty to God, to this community, and to myself, therefore, urges me to come forward in this public manner, solemnly to protest against the present indiscriminate system of licencing and tolerating taverns and dram-shops, as a system which is doing much to demoralize this neighborhood, and to frustrate every attempt that is made to advance its civil and religious interests; as a system also, which is furnishing individuals with the power of poisoning and ruining their fellow men, for the sake of gain, and which is drowning many in perdition: and not only to protest against it, but publicly to call upon all who are not dead to every feeling of duty or responsibility, to come promptly forward and unite vigorously with our Magistrates and Peace Officers for its suppression, and for the suppression with it, as far as possible, of the evils of which it has been productive.

I know that those who are already the votaries of dissipation will be disposed to treat with indifference, if not with contempt and mockery, every thing that may be said on this subject; and that those again who love their worldly interests better than their duty, and are making gain of the temporal and eternal ruin of those around them, will affect to take offence at the statements which may be made, as the most graceful way:

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