

That there is a natural tendency in the use of intoxicating drinks to lead to intemperance, is a fact established by the world's experience. No doubt this natural tendency may be modified by other influences. There may be physical or mental peculiarities of constitution, or there may be the exercise of strong moral and religious motives, which will enable some, more effectually than others, to resist this natural tendency. Still the general principle remains unaffected; just as insurance societies may not be able to ascertain the exact length of individual life, yet, from general statistics, can strike with wonderful accuracy the average of human existence: so, while we cannot take into account the various causes which may modify the influence of these drinks in every individual case, yet we may lay it down as a general principle, that just in proportion to the quantity and quality of intoxicating drink consumed by a community, in the very same proportion will be the intemperance of that community. Let them cease to use these drinks, and intemperance is a physical impossibility. Let them continue their use, and drunkenness is a moral certainty. Are they not, then, (we ask the disciples of Bacon) connected together as cause and effect?

It may indeed be an easy matter for ingenious men to start a thousand conjectural uses for such drinks in the animal economy, and thus perplex common sense with their hypothesis. But there is one page of facts in the book of the world's history, and these they dare not grapple with. The strong man has drank; and that stately form which stood erect in the pride of manhood, has been forced to do obeisance before the outraged laws of his own being. The wise man has drank; and instead of occupying that prominence which nature designed him, has degenerated into a miserable outcast, devoid of conscience, God, or heart. Society has indeed deplored their loss: the legislator in the senate-house, the judge on the bench, the minister in the sanctuary—all have deplored, all have denounced, yet all have continued to drink; and the consequence is, that intemperance still rages with unabated fury. Is it not a fact, then,—we appeal to the world's experience—that there is a connection, natural and necessary, between intemperance, and the use of intoxicating drinks? and is it not another fact, established by the same authority, that all attempts to put down this evil upon principles of moderate drinking, have been utterly futile and hopeless? Surely, then, it is high time that this second curse of humanity had its true cause laid bare, and its only remedy applied.

TO PROFESSING CHRISTIANS.

The following address to professing Christians, on total abstinence from intoxicating drinks, appeared in the British and Foreign Temperance Intelligencer. It is as applicable to the Christians of America as to those of England.

DEAR BRETHREN.—Allow me affectionately to entreat your attention to the following truisms and frequent inferences:

- Drunkenness is a sin against Almighty God!
- It is a sin against a man's own soul!
- It ensures destruction to his body!
- It beggars his wife and children!
- It destroys his reputation!
- It leads to crime and enormity of every description!
- It militates against national prosperity!
- It offers the greatest opposition to the spread of the gospel!
- It robs the church annually of hundreds of its members!
- Moderate drinking is the stepping-stone to drunkenness, inasmuch as all drunkards commenced their career by moderation!

Moderate drinkers are ALL in danger of becoming drunkards, and a large number of them are daily filling up the vacancies occasioned by the deaths of drunkards!

Total abstinence from all alcoholic drinks is a simple but certain remedy for those who have become drunkards!

Total abstinence is an infallible preventive to all drunkenness, and if ALL abstain, this vice will cease to exist!

Professing Christians, if the above propositions be correct, what is your DUTY?

Shall drunkenness continue? It rests with you to say, Yes or No!

If you abstain, you secure yourselves! and your influence will decide the point at once!

"Ye are the salt of the earth."—Matt. v. 13.

"Ye are the light of the world."—Matt. v. 14.

Shall the world be better for your existence? for your example? for your influence? Will you season it? will you shine? Then abstain! abstain! abstain! and with your united voice cry, Abstain! abstain! abstain!

O, beware! lest in the great day of accounts your brother's blood be found in your skirts. It is your duty to assist in putting down all sin by every legitimate and proper means.

Remember, DUTY NEGLECTED IS SIN!

Remember, further, that Duty is Duty, and its character is in no degree affected by our opinion of it: all our prejudices, for or against, cannot alter our Duty!

My conscience tells me, that unless I use every exertion to put an end to drunkenness, I neglect my duty, and, so far as I am individually concerned, for me to adopt any other course than total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, would be to live in direct opposition to the will of my Heavenly Father; and, as a necessary consequence, to entail destruction on myself.

I dare not assert, because I do not believe, that to drink any alcoholic beverage is sinful, abstractly considered; but I dare assert, that to refuse my influence and example to a society which aims at so much good, and has been, and still is, blessed by Almighty God to such an amazing extent, would be to stultify my profession of Christianity.

Praying humbly and earnestly that God may bless these remarks to your minds, and influence your conduct by them, I remain, dear brethren,

Yours, most affectionately,

COURTENAY T. BARRY.

STATISTICS—CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING DRINKS.

Quantities of malt and spirits retained for home consumption in the six months ending 5th July, in the years 1845, 1846, and 1847, according to the official excise accounts; also, of foreign spirits and wine entered for home consumption in the same periods, according to the official accounts of the Board of Trade:—

		SIX MONTHS ENDING 5TH JULY.		
		1845.	1846.	1847.
Bushels	England, . . .	20,165,831	22,682,823	15,960,638
	Scotland, . . .	2,328,814	2,337,584	1,895,960
	Ireland, . . .	1,050,120	928,059	146,073
Malt. { United Kingdom,		23,544,765	25,948,466	18,002,671
Gallons	England, . . .	4,360,709	4,295,402	4,173,576
	Scotland, . . .	3,033,385	3,308,270	2,849,320
	Ireland, . . .	3,471,453	3,673,625	2,500,289
British Spirits. { United Kingdom,		10,865,547	11,277,297	9,528,185
Foreign Spirits, . . .		1,708,259	1,784,471	2,282,073
Total British & Foreign Spirits		12,573,806	13,061,768	11,810,258
Gallons Wine,		3,431,646	3,369,854	3,264,531