

## PREACHING ON TEMPERANCE.

One of the resolutions adopted by the Union at its last annual meeting was, "That the ministers of this Union be requested to preach on the subject of Temperance on the *Third Sabbath of December*." This we regard as a judicious recommendation, and we have very little doubt of its cordial adoption by all our ministerial brethren throughout the British American Provinces. Already two days have been observed for special purposes: the one for our College, with its various interests; the other for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our land. On these occasions many prayers ascended from the churches, from which we anticipate joyful results. And surely the "*subject of Temperance*" deserves our advocacy, not only in the way of "preaching," but also by our pleadings with God. In the *pulpit* there should be no "uncertain sound" on a subject so vital in all its bearings; and in the devotions of the sanctuary the spiritual watchman will not fail to look upward for an agency essential to success in this and every other enterprise. We *plead* with God for the overthrow of oppression and wrong, and for the destruction of all that is anti-Christian; why not for "the suppression of Intemperance?"

But as the request before us has to do with *preaching* on the subject, we shall confine our remarks in that direction. No one can be ignorant of the prevalence of intemperance, with the manifold evils growing out of it; or fail to observe the fascinating and blinding influence of the drinking customs of society. Nor is it less apparent how much ignorance exists relative to the properties and effects of inebriating liquors, how easily an appetite and a relish for them is acquired, how difficult it is to resist solicitations to use them in fashionable circles, and how powerful is the regard to worldly interest by which the traffic in them is perpetuated. We are averse to harsh and ultra measures, or to an unkind and uncharitable spirit in treating with those who dissent from our views; but as our convictions are conscientiously strong, and increase in strength with growing years, we think that a *firm and uncompromising stand* should be taken by every minister of the Gospel on the side of the Temperance Reform, and seasonable opportunities be embraced to instruct the people on this point.

It is not our province to dictate *what* course they should pursue, or with *what* organizations they should connect themselves; every man must be fully persuaded in his own mind, and do what he thinks best to honour the Saviour, and advance the temporal, moral and spiritual interests of the people under his charge: but certainly he ought not to shrink from appropriate avowals of truth and duty when standing up as an ambassador for Christ and a watchman in Zion. Facts abundantly prove the injurious influence of the drinking usages to the cause of Christ, at home and abroad. The records of churches testify to the baneful and dangerous effects of those usages. It is sad to think of the devastations of intemperance, not only in its more palpable forms, but in those of a milder and apparently harmless nature. All will condemn *drunkenness*, but we apprehend there is excess, sin and danger where we may little suspect it. We tremble for the interests of religion, when we find professing Christians indifferent to the cause of Temperance, stand aloof from its advocacy, and speak in favourable terms of what the world too generally approves. We are fully satisfied that such are at fault, and timely reflection will doubtless convince many of their error.

While, then, we unchristianize none who differ from us, nor attach undue