

the source ! *Wo to you that rise up early in the morning, cries out the prophet Isaias, to follow drunkenness and to drink till the evening. Wo to you that are mighty to drink wine, and stout men at drunkenness.* (Isaias, V. 11. 22.)

We do not by these words, intend to pronounce malediction against poor erring children, for whose salvation we would willingly lay down our lives : it is always more grateful to us to pardon and bless, but we cannot help bringing to mind the words by which the Holy Ghost announces, with infallible certainty, the fate which awaits the drunkard. And what shall we say of those retailers of spirituous liquors who become the agents of Satan in this infamous and homicidal traffic ? *Wo to that man by whom the scandal cometh !* (S. Matt., XVIII. 7.)

Wo to the drunkard ; but wo, a thousand times, to the retailer of spirituous liquors who is the first cause of all those crimes !

How could it be otherwise since there is question here of a vice which degrades man ; and stifles within him every sentiment of honour shame and affection ; which ruins families and draws down on them the most dreadful chastisements, by reason of the crimes and blasphemies of which it is the source ! Does not this vice kill at once the soul and body of the unfortunate man who becomes a prey to it ?

We therefore appeal to all those who have the interests of our religion, and of our country at heart, to unite with us in arresting, or at least in diminishing as much as possible, the ravages of intemperance. Yes, we conjure you, by the love of our Lord Jesus-Christ, who died to redeem our souls, to pray for those unhappy men whom this fatal vice has loaded with its chains ; pray that God may enlighten the hearts of those retailers of spirituous liquors ; pray that they may understand the enormity of the scandal which they give : pray that God may direct our legislators to employ such means as are best calculated to eradicate an evil so prejudicial to the welfare of our country ; pray, in fine, that the municipal and parochial authorities may fulfill their duties on this head, with courage and fidelity, since they must one day answer before the sovereign Judge for all the crimes they could have hindered. Alas ! it but too often happens that the interests of a whole parish are sacrificed to the clamors and intrigues of a small number of men who favor taverns.

To those fervent prayers, unite example, by enrolling yourselves in the *Temperance Societies* and *Societies of the Cross* established in your parishes and missions. How great will be your happiness, your merit and your joy in heaven, if you thus contribute to the salvation of souls ! Finally, you must not only sigh in secret, you must display courage and energy, in electing and supporting such municipal councillors as really desire to work in the good cause, and in openly protesting against the cowardly accomplices of abuses.