

any argument by which he enforces purity of heart and life, will be met, and shrank off from the conscience of the unconverted, by looking at the profligate of religion whom he has met in the gay circles of vain and sinful amusements,—whose actions he has seen, in his daily intercourse with him, and whose low and mean dealing he has seen in his business transactions.

This part of religion—this embodiment of the pure religion of the cross, should receive much more of our study, and should by us be more manifested. Religion has respect to the whole man. If it is to appear what it is evidently designed to be, its symmetry must be unbroken. It must reflect the glory of him who hath called us from darkness to light. And as it respects the whole man, so it must have respect to all his actions. It forbids any thing like over-reaching in a bargain—taking advantage of the ignorance of those with whom we deal—concealing what is known by us to be defects in what we may dispose of to others—making promises when we have no intention of fulfilling them,—and withholding what is the just due to any.—Alas! how much injury is done to the cause of Christ by the actions of some who profess to be the disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus!

Not only should the people of God set a good example, in abstaining from sinful actions! they must also engage heartily in every good work, and thus by their labouring in the cause of the Redeemer advance Zion's interests. The intoxicating cup, the Christian must not only avoid, but he must lend his influence and exertions to prevent its general use. That the Christian should abstain entirely from the use, as a beverage, of intoxicating drinks, is most obvious—that which the hardy labourer and the medical man have alike proved and pronounced injurious to health, and unnecessary for the common purposes of life; and the use of which is fraught with so much evil, let the child of God avoid,—and let him labour for the entire removal of its use from society.

The sacred Sabbath—the day of holy rest, must be revered by the Christian. And while he reverences this holy day, let him not fail to labour for the removal of its too frequent desecration. How pure should his example be in this respect—with solemn reverence, and filial obedience, let him “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Alas! how often this sacred day profaned!

“Day of all the week the best,
Emblem of eternal rest.”

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true; whatsoever things are honest; whatsoever things are just; whatsoever things are pure; whatsoever things are lovely; whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.