

experience of many, who "through strong drink are out of the way." Brethren high in office and in honour too, of great usefulness, and highly beloved, overcome by this insidious and pernicious habit, have fallen, and brought disgrace upon themselves and dishonour upon their profession; ministerial character and usefulness have often been sadly impaired, the influence of the gospel counteracted, and the hearts of many grieved and discouraged by the known habits of office-bearers in this respect; and the fact that members and even office-bearers of the Church not only use, but manufacture and sell intoxicating liquors, is often referred to as giving the high sanction of religion to the traffic, and the commendation of good authority for the practice of drinking. A very large number of those who are engaged in this traffic are members of Christian Churches, and contribute for the support of their ordinances and institutions, and hence the solemn responsibility that rests upon all alike, and the urgent necessity for earnest action in the matter. The various schemes of religious and benevolent enterprise languish for want of men and money, while thousands of christian men are employed, and millions of money spent on what is at best a useless, and generally a most injurious indulgence. The claims of missions abroad, and the needs of the Church at home, urge the propriety of using all lawful means, and of making every personal sacrifice, in order to the suppression of the traffic, and the removal of so great a hindrance to the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world.

The fearful effects of intemperance on the hopes and happiness of families, who can depict? What scene more appallingly desolate than a drunkard's home? Whose condition more piteously hopeless than that of its wretched and unhappy inmates?—physical destitution, domestic misery, social degradation, moral pollution, and spiritual darkness and death—and all so rayless and hopeless to the anguished, broken-hearted wife, and despairing mother, and her neglected, abused, demoralized children, because of the constant temptations and fatal facilities everywhere presented by the practices and regulations of so-called Christian society. The drunken parent is doubtless chargeable with heavy guilt, but are we free from blame, and guiltless in this thing? The ruinous results of excessive indulgence on the individual are patent to every eye, and are only too frequently presented to our gaze; religious declension and spiritual darkness,—a dishonoured manhood and a degraded position,—intellectual imbecility and mental madness—physical deformity and bodily disease—wild delirium and fearful horrors, are the sure, even when tardy fruits of drinking and drunkenness; and when the use is not so great as to produce such fatal effects, the baneful influence is felt on the temper, the affections, the disposition and general health of body and mind, as, even in more moderate quantities, alcohol inflames the passions, darkens the judgment, impairs the memory, weakens the will, and indurates alike the feelings and the conscience.

When we inquire into the causes which support and perpetuate an evil of such magnitude, so inimical to all the best interests of society, so hostile to the progress of the Gospel, so fraught with every woe to the household, and so baleful to the individual, we cannot fail to discover, as by far the