

of the same liquor. On the one it exerts no visible effects; of the other it makes a raving madman. Is he the more innocent of the two whose stronger nerve or more sluggish brain or long habit of drinking renders him callous to the effects of the liquor? Is that a degrading vice in one which is a harmless indulgence in the other? What jugglery of words is this? Nay, the greater is *his* sin who makes his strength the temptation of his weaker brother. Oh, ye prudent drinkers, who know just when to stop, who can take your dram or let it alone, beware lest ye be the stumbling-blocks over which souls shall fall into eternal ruin!

As little can we define what is really drunkenness. There may be no *visible* effect, yet the judgment may be perverted, the imagination excited, the perceptions obscured, the nerves jarred, and the man unfitted for the efficient discharge of his duty. Yet those duties may be of the most momentous character. It may be a military officer has taken a single glass to invigorate his nerves on the eve of an engagement. On his correct decision and prompt action may depend the lives of thousands, the issue of a battle, the fate of a nation. But the treacherous spirit—more dangerous than the foe—mounts to his brain, and the confusion and disorder, causing disaster and defeat, spread through the army. Or a ship-captain may have taken an unusual dram, under the delusion of better enduring exposure to the storm; his intellect becomes obscured, his conduct becomes reckless, his presence of mind is lost, and the vessel is wrecked through alcohol. Or, more common still, a physician may be summoned from the enjoyment of the table to the bedside of the sick or of the dying. Life, or what is infinitely more valuable, the soul's salvation, may depend on the coolness, tact, perspicuity, and intellectual clearness and vigour of him who is called to minister to the dying man. How terrible the consequences of that perversion of intellect, that "stumbling in judgment," which the Scriptures declares results from strong drink, and which may result from a very moderate amount!

Is this danger exaggerated? It is a matter of notoriety that frequently the most momentous interests are imperilled through the influence of strong drink, and the most tragical disaster, resulting in far-reaching desolation and woe, has resulted through its use.