

was condemnatory of the sect of the *ESSENES*, the Jewish Temperance society, and commendatory of the proper use of wine, "as a beverage." You have also seen from Scripture that the wine of Judea was of an intoxicating nature. Indeed, I have seen it asserted, (and in a total abstinence tract, I believe) that the wines of Canaan, in the present day, average 18 per cent. of alcohol! You have seen that the texts of Scripture, quoted from Jeremiah and St. Paul, (the former respecting the Rechabites; the latter respecting wines and meats offered in sacrifice to idols,) have nothing to do with the subject, are altogether foreign to the purpose; and also that the much vaunted good claimed to have been done by the system was contradicted pointblank at the Saratoga Temperance Convention.—With what face then, can it be said that a Christian man, in declining to unite with the advocates of this system, is acting contrary to his duty? Are not they rather, who refuse to unite themselves with God's own Temperate Society—to use God's own appointed means of temperance, the *Sacramental pledges, and other means of grace*, the persons who neglect the true "welfare of Society?" Is not the Christian to "obey God rather than man?" Are we, my brethren, countenanced of God, as Christians, when we attempt to carry on *any* object independent of his word and authority? Are we in "DUTY" bound to adopt the tenet, not of Christ, but of his enemy, the false prophet MAHOMET, because indeed some *well-meaning* people have adopted it; and therefore to abstain from the moderate God-sanctioned use of this good gift of Providence?—Are we in "DUTY" bound to adopt the tenet, not of Christ but of PAPAL ROME,—that because the people of the Corinthian Church abused the wine in the Lord's supper, and because the liability to such abuse still exists, therefore the wine, of which the Lord said "drink ye ALL of it" is to be refused, to be withheld from the laity—from the congregation of Christ's flock?—O, my beloved brethren, may we be preserved from such awful impiety. May we never, by consenting to such impure doctrines, seem to blaspheme the holy life and conduct of the Saviour; to all appearance tread under foot the Son of God, and count the blood of the Covenant wherewith we are sanctified an unholy thing, and do despite unto the Spirit of grace!

But supposing the *assertion* was borne out by fact,—that "the Temperance Reformation," as it is called, had