

dition through their example, answer the question!

But as it is not *Christian*, neither is it safe for any man to say in regard to this matter, "That is no affair of mine." For even though he were absolutely assured against all danger of falling into intemperance personally,—which no one who indulges in intoxicating stimulants can be,—every thinking man must see that these drinking usages are at war with *all our material, social, and religious interests*,—with everything, in fact, that tends to make us a truly great, prosperous, and happy people. Here, for once, selfishness and benevolence occupy the same ground; for, with the exception of the manufacturers and vendors of the liquor, every one of whom might find equally remunerative, and much more reputable employment in some other way, the cry of our people, under the burdens of taxation, and wretchedness, and wrong, brought upon them by the drink traffic, reacheth unto heaven, and hath entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. "And shall not God avenge his own elect, who cry day and night unto Him, though he bear long with them?"

The cost of drunkenness, however, is not the only point at which this vice touches our self interest, whether consumers or non-consumers of these beverages ourselves. A man may be personally an abstainer, or he may be a "gin-proof" moderate drinker, but if he have a son or a family of children growing up around him, exposed to the temptation everywhere to be met with to drink, and to fall through the bad example of others, has that father no

*personal* interest in the suppression of this evil? Can he be *sure* that no lamb from his fold will ever be snatched away by this ravening and roaring lion? that *his* bright-eyed boy, his pride and darling, will never yield to the fascinations of the winecup, and sink into a premature and dishonoured grave? that *his* daughter, brought up so tenderly, and so sprightly and blooming, will never know the miseries and woes of a drunkard's wife; or die broken-hearted as she thinks of all the blighted affections and hopes of her budding womanhood? If he can, then let him drink;—nay, that were the world's selfish way of looking at it, but let him abstain for the sake of *somebody else's daughter*!

We are not drawing upon our fancy, or sketching experiences so rare that they are, in fact, unreal. Cases of this kind are constantly to be met with all around us, with soul-harrowing aggravations such as mere imagination could never depict. There is, indeed, scarcely a family in the land that has not suffered, in some of its nearer or remoter relations, from this fearful scourge; and there is positively none that can insure for itself absolute immunity from it, while the present drinking usages prevail, and such fatal facilities exist for their indulgence. Every father should feel that he has an all-sufficient reason for pledging himself to total abstinence in every child that sits at his table; and every mother should be constrained to a similar course, lest her daughter should err, as others have done, through the use of wine. Nay, let every one, "low and high, rich and poor together," hear the Apostolic warning, "Let him that thinketh he