

One of the most alarming features of intemperance is its inseparable connection with an evil operating everywhere, yet so artfully concealed with the drapery of virtue as to deceive thousands—we refer to the “love of money,” which Paul hesitates not to say “is the root of all evil.” From this prolific root, no tree has grown to such dimensions, and exhibits such poisonous and deadly influences as the tree of intemperance. While the love of money is inherent in human nature, it is strangely encouraged and rapidly developed by what we call our refined civilization.

Alas! that drunkenness prevails to the largest extent in highly civilized countries! We incline to the opinion that were it not for the restraining, correcting, elevating, and purifying influences of Christianity, this abounding sin of humanity, the love of money, would in the course of a century completely overthrow our boasted civilization.

As it is, the fearful vice of intemperance, fostered by the monied interests of our country, is seriously retarding the benign movements of the Christian Church, and, we fear, preparing the way for outpourings of Divine wrath. If knowledge involves responsibility we certainly are in danger of realizing the “many stripes.”

In China, sins similar to those committed in our land might be winked at by the Divine Government, but severely punished in Britain and America.

Doubtless the deformity and hideous aspect of intemperance appears more vividly in Christian lands than elsewhere. The light reveals the darkness.

It is the foulest blot on our national escutcheon; the deepest disgrace of our religion.

The Christian Church is largely involved in its perpetuation. Her testimony against the soul-destroying sin, delivered in the John Wesley style, would have ere this bound this incarnate devil with adamant chains.

It is pleasing to know that the purest form of Christianity is found to-day operating among the Anglo-Saxon people. This most energetic and intelligent race of men would soon win the world for Jesus, were there not an awful agency at work neutralizing their efforts. That agency is intemperance.

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