

there are not men intoxicated with drink, in this community. Let us pause here, and enquire who are chargeable, in the sight of God, with giving them drink, with putting their bottle to them, and making them drunken.

1st.—The Retailers of ardent spirits in this community, are certainly heinously guilty of this sin. Houses of entertainment are necessary as an accommodation to society, but houses of riot and intemperance, are not; they are on the contrary, pests, and nuisances, which every good man should exert himself to suppress. Allowing the popular opinion to be correct, viz — “That ardent spirits tend to support the human constitution under fatigue, and the extremes of heat and cold, and that they are, when used in moderation conducive to health, and of course to long life.” (all of which I disbelieve utterly, because all this is positively denied by the most skillful and experienced medical men both in Europe and America;) there is a vast difference between the person who supplies travellers and others, with what is consistent with sobriety, and the man who stands in his bar-room, or at his counter, and measures out to every hapless being, who can remunerate him for it, as long as he is able to stand and swallow it. And is not this the case with nearly every Licensed Retailer in this neighborhood? Where is the tavern or dram shop in which the most dissipated wretch that walks the streets, will be refused as much liquor as will make him drunken, if he has only money to pay for it? I know that those who are in the habit of supplying the intemperate with strong drink, in this way, as long as they can only compensate them for it, endeavor to quiet their consciences with some such reasoning as this:—“Those unhappy beings will have drink from some quarter, and will give their money for it, as long as they have any to give; we, therefore, may as well take their money, and give them drink, as allow others to take it.” Pause, and consider seriously, you who reason and act in this manner; is this an apology for giving drink to your neighbor, to make him drunken, which will stand the scrutiny of the last day, when all your ill-gotten gain must be accounted for before the Judge of all the Earth? If a proportion of the inhabitants of this settlement were determined to destroy their lives, by swallowing poison, and you had a goodly stock of it on hand, and were aware that if you did not supply them with it, they would obtain it elsewhere; would you consider yourselves justified in taking their money, and weighing