

are charged with disobedience to the inspired injunction which declares, that it is "not good to do any thing whereby a brother stumbleth, or is offended, or made weak." You are charged with setting an example, which in all probability will have the effect of leading many to drunkenness, and crime, and will finally cost them their precious souls. You are charged with being guilty of encouraging and confirming the drunkard in his sin, and of keeping up practices and customs, by which, in all places, intemperance is caused. You are charged with carrying on opposition against God, and the cause of the Gospel, and the salvation of souls. All this, and much more, you are charged with; and you are charged with doing it, not for the good of others, but merely for a selfish indulgence of your own. You are charged with all these dreadful evils, for the sake of gratifying a carnal lust, without conferring a single benefit upon others or yourselves. And you cannot answer these charges. You cannot deny that it is selfishness alone, which prevents you from giving over your moderate drinking. And will this excuse be sufficient, do you think, to offer before the judgment seat of Christ, when the blood of souls cries to Heaven against you? the souls of those who through your example have been led on to become drunkards, and because you would not give up what you well knew to be a stumbling block, and an occasion to fall in their way?

And will you still venture in the face of all these charges, which are made against you, to persist in doing that, which is a fighting against God, dangerous to yourselves, and fruitful of incalculable evil to mankind? Parents, do you love your children? Do you desire to see them prosper? Do you wish them to be preserved from temptations and indulgencies, from practices and companions, which are the enemies of their souls? Think of the plan which Jonadab took with his children. He charged them to drink no wine nor strong drink, they nor their sons forever. And what was the effect? They remained uncorrupted for many hundred years,