

Edw. and M. Young
West Hill
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SERMON.

1 Cor. VI. 9 & 10.—*Be not deceived:—Drunkards shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.* HAB. XI. 15.—*Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!*

IT is only after a very considerable struggle between personal feelings and a sense of duty, that I have met you here to-day. That of a Minister of Christ, is an office of great and solemn responsibility, and an office which imposes duties often very unpleasant, and even painful, upon those who would discharge its functions with fidelity. We sustain the character of Ambassadors for Christ, to communicate the Message of Heaven to our fellow-men; a character awfully important to us, and them, involving the interests of both, to an extent, which, the last day only, will fully disclose. As such, we are enjoined by divine authority, not only to proclaim salvation freely to all who apply for it through a crucified Redeemer; but also, to reprove with firmness, obstinate transgressors; and solemnly to warn those who neglect the Gospel, who contemn its ordinances, and refuse to obey it in their general conduct, that they are assuredly on the road to death, and that unless they repent, and "break off their sins by righteousness," they must inevitably perish. The great commission, which God gave to the Prophet Ezekiel, he still gives in substance to all the Watchmen upon the walls of the New Testament Church. *Ezekiel XXXIII. 7. 8 & 9.*—"So thou, O Son of Man, I have set thee a Watchman unto the House of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word of my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul."