

ism, that hangs a human being by the neck as you would a dog, until he is dead!" . . . . . Such was the vaunting style of these self-styled reformers, who are ever seeking to make a tool of the church to accomplish all their ends.

By-and-by Washingtonianism came up, and the people *en masse*, men, women and children, hastened to sign the pledge. Whoever refused his name, was christened a wine-bibber, and guilty, or not guilty, he must bear the reproach. To keep pace with the times, preachers and people, sober men and drunkards, must pledge their names together, henceforth and forever, to live sober men. So high did the excitement run at one time, that on a New Year's evening I recollect hearing a clergyman say, in a temperance meeting: "I have always thought that the Lord designed to reform the world from drunkenness by the gospel, but I am now satisfied that he has reserved this honor for the Washingtonian Society, and henceforth I shall regard a membership in this society as a stepping-stone to a membership in the church!"

Such was the interest taken in the temperance reform, that church doors were thrown open, and whoever would lift his voice in favor of temperance was invited to occupy the sacred desk. Preachers were frequently called upon to open the meeting by prayer, and often the amen was scarcely pronounced before some vulgar witticism from the mouth of the orator, created such an uproar of laughter and feet stamping, as made the godly man fear the abuse of the pulpit.

But that which makes these things doubly dangerous, is the humiliating thought that the people, as a mass, are becoming more and more an excitable people, and these themes of excitement take deeper and deeper root every year, and the Demetriuses with their craftsmen, who are occupied in making shrines for the party, are ever busy in calling their councils, and passing their resolutions, and thus awakening an enthusiasm that finds no rival this side of the uproar at Ephesus, in their praises of Diana.

Closely allied to these things is a third danger, to which I must invite attention. Yet I almost feel that I shall be considered as treading on forbidden ground to do so. Nevertheless, it is duty to say, there is danger in these times of forgetting the dangers that threaten the *church*, for the dangers that threaten the *country*. Yes, *of forgetting sinners before God, for sinners in Congress!* Concerning the