

INTEMPERANCE.

MOST formidable vice of the Nineteenth Century! The source of more mental and material wretchedness, in the domestic and social circle, than all other vices combined. A monster of gigantic proportions, ruthlessly trampling into loathsome degradation, many of the finest specimens of humanity on this planet. Gems that might have sparkled in the crown of the world's Redeemer, but for this desolating scourge.

The very mention of the word kindles righteous indignation in the breast of every genuine philanthropist. It is suggestive of kindred evils without number. No word in our language, except sin, embraces in its meaning such depths, and heights, and length, and breadth of iniquity, as this terrible word, Intemperance.

It is, however, consoling to know that the vocabulary of virtue is more extensive and intensive than that of vice.

It is matter of painful regret, that there are multitudes in our Christian land, some of whom are moving in what are designated respectable circles, who hesitate not to sneer when either the subject of temperance or its advocates are mentioned. Not unfrequently the meaning of the word intemperance, comes before the gaze of these contemptuous ones, in such a distressing form, as to melt their thoughtless sneers into tears of agony. The devouring curse and its inallible cure, total abstinence, demand more of the thoughts, prayers and efforts of our world than they receive. The appalling evil is, indeed, arousing almost universal attention, but respecting the remedy there is great diversity of opinion. We are most surprised at the strange indifference manifested by many who profess to be followers of the blessed Jesus. While they seem to deplore the ravages of drunkenness, they refuse to exercise any self-denial, for the salvation of the erring and enslaved.

We would not be uncharitable in our judgment of any, but in solving this difficult problem we cannot conceal the evident conviction that the work of the Great Deceiver is manifest here. No sin of our race exhibits more clearly than this the image of the Devil! The existence and havoc of intemperance, in the midst of all the influences of the glorious Gospel, ought to convince even the Universalist that there is a personal, intelligent, and active devil.