

ern wilds; and how many scenes of domestic sorrow and anguish, of remorse and despair, which no language can portray, can you now call to mind, as the fruits of intemperance, within your personal knowledge?

18. Finally, we earnestly request Physicians and Clergymen, to furnish their candid testimony in answer to the concluding question, viz: In what proportion have the fatal diseases, of all the young and middle aged men, whose death-beds and funerals you have officially attended, been produced directly or remotely by intemperate habits?

The following extract from the *West. Temp. Journal*, shows how the efforts to put down the traffic in alcohol by law, is succeeding in Cincinnati—the New York of the Great West. We feel more and more persuaded the days of this accursed traffic are numbered. Investigation will compel every friend of mankind to forbid the continuance of a trade injurious to the prosperity, health, life, and salvation of men.

"In Cincinnati the work is advancing. On the first of April, 1838, we had not less than three hundred licensed and unlicensed coffee-houses and taverns. Since then, it has been made lawful, by our City Council, to grant no licenses for the exclusive retail of intoxicating drinks. The consequence is a diminution of two hundred and fifty up to the present time; and of the remaining fifty, thirty are taverns. The revolution of another half-year will finish the work, as the twenty existing licenses will expire in that time. There will then remain thirty taverns, a number quite sufficient for the purposes of entertainment. For these satisfactory results, the friends of temperance and humanity are deeply indebted to our City Council. With a becoming zeal, controlled by a proper degree of prudence, this body has labored with an eye single to the uprooting of intemperance from our midst.

What the views of our friends in New York State are, with regard to the traffic, will appear by the following:—

"New York.—The semi-annual meeting of the New York State Temperance Society took place at Rochester, on the 14th and 15th days of August. Upwards of four hundred members were in attendance, the representatives of twenty-nine counties. Massachusetts and Ohio were represented by a member from each state. Gen. A. W. Riley, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, took the chair.

This is one of the Resolutions passed on the occasion:

"Resolved,—That while life and reason last, we will never cease our efforts to prevent the licensed or unlicensed sale and use, for a beverage, of all intoxicating drinks; and that until efficient and correct legislation is had by our 'state,' we will yearly importune and petition our legislature on this subject; and we recommend a like resolution to be passed in every district and neighbourhood meeting throughout the state."

The number of petitioners for the repeal or modification of the license law in 1837, was 5000; in 1838, 20,000; in 1839, 40,000. Great unanimity of feeling and sentiment pervaded the meeting of the Society.

If the friends of total abstinence in New York are true to their purpose, what will be the result is not difficult to foretell. In two years the increase of names for the prohibition of the sale of alcohol is immense. But enquiry and investigation are only begun. Let them be continued three years longer, and the work will be accomplished. Government will soon forbid alcohol to be sold of their own accord. The man that would sell such a virulent and destructive poison, will be held guilty by the law of the land of a high misdemeanor, and punished as he deserves.

ACTION IN THE CHURCH.

A QUESTION SUBMITTED TO CHRISTIANS.

After you read the following, compare it with Scripture, and say—Did the minister and Session do right, or wrong?

"While the Rev. Joel Parker was pastor of a Free Church in this city, none were admitted to his communion but such as fully came up to the Temperance standard of the day. A very respecta-

ble lady, keeper of one of the largest boarding houses in Broadway, presented herself to the session of his church for admission. The session were much pleased with her conversation; but they felt bound to put to her the question, 'Do you not, madam, have brandy on your table?' She replied, 'I do.' 'Well then, we cannot admit you. It is contrary to our rule.' She was disappointed, but said, she could not join. She retired and reflected, and came to the conclusion, that the session was right; that it was inconsistent for a professor of religion to be daily ministering to the appetite of the drunkard. She addressed her boarders, forty in number, of the first respectability, and said, 'Gentlemen, I can no longer have brandy on my table, I do not feel it to be right.' It was entirely removed, and but one expressed any dissatisfaction. The lady was received to the communion of the church, and became a very valuable member. How many keepers of boarding-houses there are now, who are members of churches in this city, we know not; but would ministers and churches thus do their duty now, in relation to this matter, what an aid would they be to the temperance cause, and what a purification might there be of many a table which is preparing men for the fires which will never be quenched."—*American Temp. Union.*

We recommend the above instance of Christian fidelity to the consideration of our readers, who are members of churches. We say to their *consideration*. If they find it agreeable to the standard of duty in the Scriptures, the adoption of it is the next step. To assist such as are anxious to be guided into all truth and duty, we throw out the following inquiries. 1. What evil would befall the Christian Church throughout the world, if its members were henceforward consistent adherents of the Total Abstinence Society? 2. What is the most likely way to secure the Church from the inroads of intemperance? 3. Is there any plea by which a professor of religion can be justified, if he deliberately occasion intemperance either in others or in himself? 4. With the present amount of light respecting the tendency of alcoholic drinks, would it be right and consistent with Christian principle, for members of churches generally, to make and sell such drinks? 5. If total abstinence from intoxicating drinks were henceforth made a condition of church-membership, would any evil effects be felt from the measure by the next generation? We beg our readers to observe that we merely present these queries for their consideration. They are certainly important. The question, what stand the Church of Christ ought to take before the world on this great subject, is worthy our immediate attention. It were a blow to intemperance such as it has never yet received, if the entire body of professing christians stood out before society, the uncompromising opponents of strong drink. Let the Church condemn the use of it: let the ministry of the gospel declare it dangerous, unnecessary, injurious; let every good man lift up his testimony against this foe of human happiness—this fatal destroyer of the lives and souls of men, and who then would touch it? O that the Church of God were delivered from this enemy of her peace—this stain on her banner of love.

Chancing evidence that ministers and churches are beginning to see and discharge their duty on this point.—In a church about 50 miles to the S. W. of this city, two of the members after having been called upon by the minister and elders, voluntarily presented themselves before the congregation. They had both signed the total abstinence pledge; but had broken it, one by giving the article to others, and the other by taking it himself. Both confessed themselves sensible of having done wrong; wished their brethren to overlook what they had done; and expressed their determination, through divine assistance, to do so no more. The scene was very solemn. Its influence on that church and community will be beneficial. It is lovely to see such examples of humility, on the part of Christians: such faithfulness in church officers.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Of the Truth that God visits the Iniquities of the Fathers upon the Children; and that the way of the Transgressor is hard.

From a Merchant in New York.

DEAR SIR,—Without undertaking to answer the specific questions proposed in your letter, as Secretary of the City Temperance Society, I will relate some facts that have come under my own obser-