

give to these claims a more attentive consideration, and as the result, also a worthier support.

As charged with the spiritual oversight of the congregation, our attention is called, in what we fear we must speak of as an increasing degree to the injurious consequences of the drinking usages of society. That there is much loss of honor, of inward life, of spiritual power to the church from this cause, we cannot doubt. We claim no right to dictate to your conscience in this matter, but we affectionately invite you to consider whether entire abstinence from wine and ardent spirits, where their temporary use is not required on grounds of health, would not be at once safer for yourselves, and more honoring to the Saviour. We are glad to know that not a few, both of the younger members of the congregation and the more advanced, already act on this principle, and we would be exceedingly gratified to learn that others, in obedience not to any precept or even recommendation of men, but to the constraining power of the Saviour's love, and the sacred regard for spiritual interests that is learned in His presence, had resolved to follow the same course.

May the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you, and to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

JOHN M. KING,
Moderator of Session.

WILLIAM KERR,
Clerk of Session.