

But why pursue this further? Texts abundant everywhere. And the peculiarity is this, that every one of them directly leads to Jesus Christ. We cannot preach from anything in God's word, we cannot "speak as the oracles of God speak," and not find Christ in all. To preach Christ, therefore, is to preach all truth, and to refute all error at the same time. Christ is the "I am," the "Creator," the "Judge," the "Rewarder," the "Image of God," the Revealer, the Standing Wonder of the World, and, like God, the "All in all." "By Him are all things, and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist." He is everywhere, in Nature as in Grace, and to deny Him in His person, offices, and relations to the world and God, is to deny all science, and to cut away the ground of all certitude in things both natural and spiritual. All false science, and all false philosophy, is refuted in the faithful preaching of "the truth as it is in Jesus." The study of error will only show us this the more clearly, and lead us to closely follow Him who has said, "I am the *Light of the World*; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

II.—PAUL'S LAW OF CHARITY AS AN ARGUMENT FOR TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

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PAUL'S "Law of Charity" has been discussed in the HOMILETIC REVIEW (Dec. No.) by my well-beloved friend, Dr. Howard Crosby, in his characteristic style. He is a bold and rapid thinker, and blurts forth his convictions with more of candor than of regard for either consistency or consequences. He has won an honorable distinction by his manly war against New York dram-shops, at the same time that he was denouncing the Maine law of Prohibition, whose very title is "an act for the suppression of tippling-houses." From one side of his pulpit he thunders against drunkenness; from the other side he trains his guns on the doctrine of entire abstinence from the only thing which turns human beings into miserable drunkards. He warns young men stoutly against the final plunge of Niagara; but not against toying and coquetting with the first glassy flow of the uppermost Rapids.

Dr. Crosby errs at the outset in pronouncing Paul's utterances in the epistles to Rome and Corinth as the "grand stronghold" of us total abstainers; if that were so, then its capture would be the ruin of our cause. We base our objections to intoxicating wines, as well as whiskey or gin, on the *essential nature* of alcoholic beverages. We oppose the use of intoxicants because terrible experience shows that the use inevitably tends towards abuse. We oppose the drinking-usages *in toto*, because they are not demanded by any necessity, and yet involve infinite perils; because alcoholic beverages (we are not