

is a high gratification to us to be able to say, that we do not know of a single Congregational pastor in this country that does not act upon the principle of total abstinence. We should be glad to learn that the same thing is true of some other denominations. But we shall not soon forget the reply of one christian minister of whom we had asked co-operation in a new temperance enterprise, or the gentle curl of the lip with which it was given, "I am not so *hot* a teetotaller as I once was!" Another "*supposed*" that total abstinence might be the best way, and fiercely denounced liquor *selling*, but without seeing, apparently, the inconsistency of his continuing to *drink* it. While yet a third excused himself from taking any prominent part in the effort on the plea of having to take a little all the time "for his stomach's sake and his often infirmities." Alas! thought we, for the temperance reform, with such examples before us! And the result justified our apprehensions.

The causes of this retrograde movement are many. The enterprise has lost the charm of novelty. The rich and the governing classes, among whom tipping is fashionable, withhold their influence from it. An enormous amount of capital is invested in the manufacture and sale of spirits. The craving for stimulants has become to many "second nature," and they will have *drink*, even if they and their families have to go without *bread*. But worst and most marvellous of all, the churches and ministers of Christ have never yet taken this enterprise in hand, as we believe they should have done. Albert Barnes, some years ago, laid the responsibility for the sin and curse of slavery at the door of the American churches, before whose united testimony he declared it could not live a year! And so we may say in regard to the slavery of intemperance, our great national curse and shame,—upon the CHURCHES and christian people of Canada must rest the responsibility for its continuance among us. Let but the churches, and the ministers of the gospel lift up a united testimony against the drinking usages, and against this cursed traffic in the "bodies and souls of men," and the Legislature would be compelled to hear it and entirely prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages.

We, therefore, hail the action of our Ottawa friends as a beginning in the right place, in more senses than one, and we are sanguine enough to think that if sister churches throughout the Dominion will but follow their excellent example, it may mark the inauguration of a movement that may be productive, under God's blessing, of very wide spread and glorious results.