

icipate the hundredth part of the success with which their important and most necessary exertions have already been happily crowned.

Among the numerous considerations which clearly shew the impropriety, the absurdity, the criminality, and the danger of drunkenness, there is not one of such magnitude and importance as that which respects the final destiny of confirmed and finally impenitent drunkards. What do the Scriptures of truth declare respecting their final destiny? In different passages they expressly assure us that "they shall not inherit the kingdom of God."* Against the degrading and most lamentably prevalent practice of drunkenness, this consideration alone contains the force of ten thousand arguments. Since we are absolutely certain that there is a future state of existence which shall endure for ever, and since we know assuredly that during all the ages of that interminable state, happiness shall be exclusively enjoyed by those who shall inherit the kingdom of God, what must be the eternal condition of those by whom that kingdom shall not be inherited? Ah! my brethren, the misery of their condition, through the ages of eternity, shall be so extreme, and so exquisitely dreadful, that it cannot be described in the language of mortals. The language of the inspired writers can enable us to form only a faint idea of their inexpressible misery. At the great day of final retribution, Jesus Christ shall command them to depart from him, as accursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. Submission to this command is obviously incompatible with the possession of happiness. This command they shall all be perfectly unable to resist. As soon as it shall be pronounced by Christ, they shall all, without exception, go away into everlasting punishment. Their consciences, which have often been *dormant* while they indulged in intemperance, shall be eternally *awakened* against them. They shall upbraid them with all their sins, and especially with their drunkenness, which so eminently contributed to shut the gates of heaven

* 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10; Gal. v. 19-21.