

defences as will preserve life and happiness. Put around your home the battlement of faith, secret prayer, family worship, church attendance, Bible instruction, purity, honesty, temperance, etc. To-day let us read our text in this way : "When thou buildest a new house thou shalt put the battlement of temperance around it," etc.

I. Let us look at the effect of alcohol upon the individual—upon the health. I think we may take it for granted that alcohol has its own medicinal properties, just as well as any other drug. I do not go so far as some, who say that if every drop of alcohol in the universe were destroyed medicine would get along just as well without it. That may be true or not. It is not for me to decide. But we wish to look at the effect of alcohol as a beverage on the health. It shortens life. One of the largest insurance companies in the world has paid special attention to temperance for a period of seventeen years. They divided the persons insuring into two classes : (1) Those who were total abstainers ; (2) moderate drinkers. Calculating by the general insurance statistics, laws and experience, they expected that 2,644 temperance persons would die in these seventeen years, but actually only 1,861 died, thus leaving the large number of 783 to the good. Of the moderate drinkers they expected that 4,408 would die in those seventeen years, but the actual deaths were 4,339, or, in other words, all died except 69. The actual deaths of abstainers was 70% of expected deaths ; moderate drinkers, 100%. This fact, proved by a disinterested insurance company, speaks volumes for temperance. The same company gives the following computations :

Total abstainer at 20 years old has chance to live till.....	64
Moderate drinker at 20 " " " .....	35½
Gain in years .....	28½
Total abstainer at 30 years old has chance to live to.....	64½
Moderate drinker at 30 " " " .....	44½
Gain in years .....	19½
Total abstainer at 40 years old has chance to live till.....	68½
Moderate drinker at 40 " " " .....	51½
Gain in years .....	17

Probably no business on the face of the earth is so, mathematically correct as the insurance business. Its figures are not made up in the interest of any church, creed or party. They are not the result of what some persons sneeringly call "temperance fanaticism," but simply from stern, cold, hard business calculation. "When thou buildest a new home" put the parapet of temperance around it, as it will give the length of days. Surely it is not putting it too strong to say, "In her right hand there is length of days, and in her left riches and honour."

Look at the action of alcohol upon the vital organs of the