

"We have one church," says Dr. B. Parsons, "from which three clergymen died from drinking, one of whom hung himself, and in the same locality four dissenting ministers sank into oblivion from the same cause."

The Rev. J. R. Barbour, of Newbury, Mass., states that in one hundred and thirty-five churches, out of sixteen hundred and thirty-four causes of discipline, eight hundred and five were caused by indulgence in intoxicating liquor.

Thus the abomination of desolation is set up in the holy place. The sanctuary of God is defiled; it is stained with the blood of souls. It echoes with the wails of the lost victims of the traffic.

Moreover, the enormous waste of money in alcoholic drinks is inconsistent with a faithful stewardship of God's bounty. While the cause of God in many places is languishing for lack of material support, and while both home and foreign missions are crippled for the same reason, the money which is so urgently needed for these Christian and philanthropic objects is poured out like water for that which retards the progress of religion, and often more than neutralizes all the Christian effort that is made.

The Rev. Newman Hall estimates that the Christian Church spends four times as much in alcoholic liquors as in the conversion of the world.

The Rev. Thos. Frazer computes the malappropriation of the Lord's money at a still higher figure. "We spend eight times as much in Great Britain," he says, "in destroying souls as in saving them."

The Rev. Wm. Bickersteth asserts that the aggregate for all the religious institutions of the United Kingdom was only sixpence a year for each individual, while the bare duties on spirits amounted to thirteen times as much.

Dr. John Campbell estimates the disproportion to be still more flagrant. He says, "Protestant and pious Britain is annually spending half a million of money on the world's salvation, and sixty-five millions on strong drink."

Is there not reason, therefore, to complain of the guilty apathy which so largely obtains on this most momentous subject!

But even supposing that the moderate use of intoxicating liquors were harmless and innocent, in itself, which we are by no