

him, than the order of the family, where, while the head thereof is shamefully squandering his time and property in sin and folly, his family is assembled together by the wife and mother to hear the word of God, to sing his praise, and to supplicate the throne of mercy? But so profound, so abject is the passive obedience preached, that the wife of a drunkard may not presume in the most private and gentle manner, to expostulate with her husband on the sin that is ruining him, and involving herself and family in helpless, hopeless poverty, and all those moral evils that follow thick in its train. Woman! know your place and privilege, and maintain them, by acting them out to the uttermost of the opportunities that He may open to you, "who openeth and *no man shutteth*." Suffer them not to be subtly withdrawn from you by an unsound application of scripture texts. I should have written in a very different strain had not the late baneful effort to cramp, fetter, and confine your exertions to do good, as the Lord may call and enable you, constrained me to write entirely on one side of the question. Look to the beginning, and there, seeing the office for which you were originally destined, endeavour to come up to it as far as present circumstances admit; it was to be an *help-meet* for man, that thus for him and *with him*, you might have the dominion over all lower things on earth. Now, an *help-meet* for man is not a slave, nor a mute; no, it is one who, with all the energy which a quick perception, lively feelings, generous and noble principles, elevated morals, and tender sympathies create, will promptly unbosom her soul's deepest feelings to him, and with all the eloquence which eye and gesture can give, would dare to *speak* and *say*, while her hand rested on the deadly bowl, "O do not! do not! touch the fatal draught, and sink your soul to hell, and mine to broken-heartedness." To be an *help-meet* for him, she must be one who will not only well fill up her own sphere of domestic duties, and this, as *unto him*, next to Christ; but one who can, in some considerable measure, fill up his place when he is either *unable* or *unwilling*. And now do you ask, what is the line of duty? The apostolic precept, *obey in the Lord*. Submission, or even apparent acquiescence, must ever be decidedly withheld from every thing that is positively sinful; and in judging as to what is so, *i. e.* in applying the general laws of the ten commandments to the various minutiae of daily life your own conscience can be, and must be, your supreme guide. Endeavour to *enlighten* your conscience by all possible means, for it may