

A

DISCOURSE

AGAINST

DRUNKENNESS:

BY CHARLES BESWICK.

Delivered in Rusholme School, at a Temperance Meeting, held on Thursday Evening, Sept. 8th, 1833, and published by request.

“Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.” *Eph. 5. 18.*

Manchester:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM IRVING, 9, ST. GEORGE'S ROAD, AND SOLD BY THE AUTHOR, 41, ASHTON STREET, LONDON ROAD.

A

DISCOURSE

AGAINST DRUNKENNESS.

“Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.”

Ephis, 5 c. 18.

Among the many vices, against which the Apostle cautioned the Christian Church at Ephesus, was that of drunkenness, which is ranked as one of the most flagrant, as no doubt it was practised to a great extent in those days. But as wine was the only intoxicating fluid, then known, it may be employed as a representation of all fermented and distilled liquors used now, which are calculated for the same purpose, when taken to excess; and if the Apostle had lived in our days, in Great Britain, he would have expressed them as well as wine. He does not say drink no wine at all, for he advised Timothy, the Bishop, to use a little for his stomach's sake, and often infirmities; and at that divine ordinance, the sacrament, wine is to be tasted as a per-

petual memorial of the tragical death of our Lord, by his command. Here are reasons given in both cases, as also on a journey, or the performance of a hard work for the time being, to meet the loss of sweat or weariness of limbs, wine or beer may be used temperately; and also in sickness, ardent spirits, under the direction of a physican, as laudanum, arsenic, or any other drug in its proper place and time. But Paul protests against drunkenness in all its degrees, from the smallest dizziness that intoxicating liquors occasion to the greatest state of drunken madness; and means to say, be not drunk at all, no, not with wine, the mildest of all fermented liquors, much more with stronger or more severe beverage, such as ale, porter, beer, and spirits mixed with water, milk, &c.; he would have raised his voice louder had he seen the revelling excesses which we witness every day in our large towns on market days; the sabbath, and in evenings especially. Men, women, and children in vast numbers crowding dram shops, taverns, jerry rooms, and liquor warehouses generally, where manufacturers, distillers, and venders are busily employed in distribution, and millions of gallons are tunnelled down the throats of the public annually, not from necessity, but the sake of pleasure, at the risk of all those painful and fearful effects, of which I shall hereafter state. In the face of Gospel warnings delivered weekly in our worship houses, sabbath schools, and the bible; at the same time calling themselves baptized Christians, and in many instances, belonging to religious communities. But in the sight, conscience, and God, are slaves to abominable drunkenness.

In calling your attention to this passage of scripture, allow me to direct your thoughts.

1. To the occasions of drunkenness, evident in the present day.
2. The results produced as the ground of the Apostle's caution.
3. The cure supposed in the text by way of application.

1. When first solicited, for the sake of pleasure, to take intoxicating liquors, it is like our first parents being invited by the enemy of souls to take forbidden fruit, by harkening to the curious tempting voice; this large venomous serpent gets into the avenue with its small drunken head, and the whole body soon slips in after. The drunken appetite here commences, a friend presses, and the smell of alcohol invites the taste; the first glass having been emptied, the second is on the table, and the third is ready at the bar; and the drunken career begins. Thirst instead of being quenched is increased by adulterated fluids, the small spark is blown into a mighty flame, and the most absolute drunkard becomes so in this or a similar way, by little and little, till the habit is formed. All kinds of liquors are used, even their dregs are not neglected; and gin, rum, brandy, whisky, as well as ale, cider, perry, beer, peppermint, and porter are used as common drink. The deadly stupifying poison of death is not discovered on the one hand, nor the tears, sweat, and blood of poor negro slaves on the other; both are forgotten, and the thoughtless tyro blunders among the binns, hampers, barrels, and stores of adulterated ale, and wine, and noxious drugs, till he falls perhaps to rise no more.

2. The recent numerous established public houses, spirit vaults, &c., for purposes of interest by the sale of all kinds of intoxicating liquors, have most awfully served to promote drunkenness during the last twenty years; instead of about fifteen there are nearly 300 places appointed to sell intoxicating fluids. I only need but to appeal to the oldest inhabitant of Manchester for the truth of this fact. Hotels or public houses were originally designed to accommodate travellers and their beasts, and the transactions of public business for the town or in trade; but have degenerated into places of resort for drunkenness, where they may lounge, and spend, and blaspheme the name of God. The solicitations of public painted sign boards, gas lights, coloured de-

canters, carved drinking cups, silver vessels, snug parlours, with abundance of cordial gin, old Jamaica rum, real cognac brandy, and genuine whisky, all of which were originally designed for apothecaries shelves and sold as medicines, but are now sold as a common beverage throughout the United Kingdom, so that in the year 1829 was drunk 27,513,260 gallons of full proof spirits, and 14,000,000 more by illicit distillation, smuggling, &c., sold at 10s. per gallon, would equal £20,000,000 of money; and in 1830, £154,000 more, besides wine at the cost of £346,000, and ale and beer, £14,551,000. Whisky alone, in Scotland, was consumed 6,075,212 gallons, but during 1831, there was a decrease in drinking of 513,697 gallons, and 1832, 700,000 gallons. In the excise district of Belfast, in Ireland, there has been a decrease in six months ending July of 45,000 gallons, being a diminution of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the whole, and in all Ireland 721,564 gallons. But what shall we say about England and Wales alone; I need but refer to the reports of the Temperance Society, which fully show to what extent the liquor trade has been carried on from these warehouses of death and vaults of hell. The British tribes have had destruction dealt out by wholesale to them to the present day; how long it may last God only knows.

3. The daily, weekly, or monthly associations of select friends, sometimes in private houses, but oftener otherwise, that the bonds of union might be cemented together, intoxicating liquors are used; the news of the day, and public reports are read to kill time, meanwhile the glass goes merrily round. Bands of pensioners, free masons, odd fellows, pot companions, and others fall into drunken excesses. On such occasions bargains are made, the rearing of buildings celebrated, the securing of title deeds, purchase of lands, or other property, or the finishing of great works. Holland's gin, good ale, fine wine, or the black bottle which is almost forced upon each; they must sup again to drive dull care away. The wild fire catches

the weakest brain first, the stomach is soon affected by drinking health to others, and loosing his own.

“The heart once open'd the black tide rolls in,
Breaks down the barriers feeble virtue rears,
And in an hour destroys the work of years,”

4. *Occasional Festivals such as Marriages, Funerals, Christenings, Anniversaries, Birth-days, and*

When intoxicating liquors are used, are often marked by drunken excesses; gin, punch, and other mixtures of ardent spirits often detain the companies till midnight, when they are led home reeling drunk, after committing their dear friends to their long homes, or uniting in wedlock their relations or friends.

Our Lord at the marriage of Galilee miraculously made abundance of wine which was his first miracle though he might gain the appellation of wine bibber among the people from that circumstance, we read of no excesses whatever, and as wine then made was of the most harmless and pure nature; it might be used on extraordinary occasions with safety, but when we hear of the Corinthians going to excess at their sacraments, the apostle sharply reprov'd them for it and in his advice to ministers, commanded that they should not be given to wine, viz. not to use it without extreme necessity. But the above festivals are hardly considered valid without being diluted with those pestiferous drinks of ardent spirits to the great disgrace of our christian community, if cheering wine is used to quench immoderate grief at funerals or preserve pleasantries on other occasions, it ought never to be taken to such an excess as to endanger the equilibrium of reason and judgment.

5. *Building associations, Money societies, Sick and Burial Club Institutions,* though considered good in themselves by some, whilst others could do very well without them, have been great causes of intemperance among the lower ranks of people. Inasmuch

as they are often held in public houses, when the landlord must be remunerated for his trouble by the sale of his liquors, and the members are bound to attend, or by proxy send in their pay for drink as their allowance, that must be drunk by others in their absence, though not of the best sort, and the smell of rum creates a desire which must be gratified by a separate shot; thus venturing too near the precipice, many persons have made a dreadful fall.

6. *Wakes, races, fairs, and theatrical plays*, as well as *public games of chance* are notorious promotions of drunkenness. As our trade might be carried on very well, and public credit better preserved without them, the sooner these sinful institutions are dispensed with the better, for drunken excesses nearly always attend them. The bowling green, billiard bench, card table, skittle ground, lotteries, chess boards, bull and bear baiting, cock-fighting, pitching and tossing and other immoral pastimes are great inducements to over exertion, from which arise great perspiration and thirst, then comes a demand for cold ale and raw spirits: the worst and most adulterated go off at full price, so that if any bargains are made or merchandize sold, the interest is drank, and very often the principle too. So that at last, after having been treated, poor Jack returns home, having lost his all, with an account chalked up that must be paid another day.

7. *Pawn Shops* were instituted at first for useful purposes, in cases of extreme poverty or immediate distress the pledging of useful articles have procured relief without troubling friends or having trouble in finding them. These shops however have been great prompters to perpetual drunkenness. Clothes and furniture, and sometimes the valuables of others have been carried to these vortexes of poverty in order that the pint of ale or glass of gin may be regularly had every day.

8. *Payments of Footings* as practised in factories, warehouses, or other workshops, are nearly all causes of drunken excesses. On the admission of a new

comer, the old hands require a part of the first week's wages to drink, as they say, to begin friendship. It matters not how often, in former situations, footings may have been paid, it must be done again. The poor children at home may look in vain for their father and the wife expecting to clear off a few old debts and rent, accumulated through loss of employment. No! share must be added to share at the Jerry shops until the parties have spent all their wages. At one o'clock in the morning they return home, reeling drunk, and perhaps the sabbath is spent in cursing and bitterness, as provisions have not been bought in; oh, when will these needless systems have an end and every servant return home with full wages, in good time after the hard labours of the week, and pay his provision debts before Monday morning. ——— 9. *Trades Unions*, though for the protection of wages and a defence from the cruel oppressions of tyrannical masters, yet, where and how is precious time spent, not at home in useful speculations but at public houses, parties must be chambered and credit given at the bar, shot after shot must be cleared off at a future period; the husband has been spoiled and the stripling initiated into the drunken order, having soon learned the task he walks with his fellows in the high way to ruin.

10. *Extra Work* on extraordinary occasions done at midnight and too often on the sabbath day when masters have wanted more than can be done in proper hours, to meet such exertions abundance of all kinds of liquors have been used, as an equivalent for lost of sweat, or preservation from cold, and support for tired limbs, at the same time the pleasure of drinking has been contracted and has remained, and the drunken disposition formed, the natural fire has been blown to produce uncommon strength and exertion, at the same time the source is exhausted, the vital heat diminished, as is proved always afterwards, the master must be obeyed and drink instead of money used and the situation preserved by the servant, and proper gain secured to the master; but let it be remembered ale is not

as they are often held in public houses, when the landlord must be remunerated for his trouble by the sale of his liquors, and the members are bound to attend, or by proxy send in their pay for drink as their allowance, that must be drunk by others in their absence, though not of the best sort, and the smell of rum creates a desire which must be gratified by a separate shot; thus venturing too near the precipice, many persons have made a dreadful fall.

6. *Wakes, races, fairs, and theatrical plays*, as well as *public games of chance* are notorious promotions of drunkenness. As our trade might be carried on very well, and public credit better preserved without them, the sooner these sinful institutions are dispensed with the better, for drunken excesses nearly always attend them. The bowling green, billiard bench, card table, skittle ground, lotteries, chess boards, bull and bear baiting, cock-fighting, pitching and tossing and other immoral pastimes are great inducements to over exertion, from which arise great perspiration and thirst, then comes a demand for cold ale and raw spirits: the worst and most adulterated go off at full price, so that if any bargains are made or merchandize sold, the interest is drank, and very often the principle too. So that at last, after having been treated, poor Jack returns home, having lost his all, with an account chalked up that must be paid another day.

7. *Pawn Shops* were instituted at first for useful purposes, in cases of extreme poverty or immediate distress the pledging of useful articles have procured relief without troubling friends or having trouble in finding them. These shops however have been great prompters to perpetual drunkenness. Clothes and furniture, and sometimes the valuables of others have been carried to these vortexes of poverty in order that the pint of ale or glass of gin may be regularly had every day.

8. *Payments of Footings* as practised in factories, warehouses, or other workshops, are nearly all causes of drunken excesses. On the admission of a new

comer, the old hands require a part of the first week's wages to drink, as they say, to begin friendship. It matters not how often, in former situations, footings may have been paid, it must be done again. The poor children at home may look in vain for their father and the wife expecting to clear off a few old debts and rent, accumulated through loss of employment. No! share must be added to share at the Jerry shops until the parties have spent all their wages. At one o'clock in the morning they return home, reeling drunk, and perhaps the sabbath is spent in cursing and bitterness, as provisions have not been bought in; oh, when will these needless systems have an end and every servant return home with full wages, in good time after the hard labours of the week, and pay his provision debts before Monday morning. ——— 9. *Trades Unions*, though for the protection of wages and a defence from the cruel oppressions of tyrannical masters, yet, where and how is precious time spent, not at home in useful speculations but at public houses, parties must be chambered and credit given at the bar, shot after shot must be cleared off at a future period; the husband has been spoiled and the stripling initiated into the drunken order, having soon learned the task he walks with his fellows in the high way to ruin.

10. *Extra Work* on extraordinary occasions done at midnight and too often on the sabbath day when masters have wanted more than can be done in proper hours, to meet such exertions abundance of all kinds of liquors have been used, as an equivalent for lost of sweat, or preservation from cold, and support for tired limbs, at the same time the pleasure of drinking has been contracted and has remained, and the drunken disposition formed, the natural fire has been blown to produce uncommon strength and exertion, at the same time the source is exhausted, the vital heat diminished, as is proved always afterwards, the master must be obeyed and drink instead of money used and the situation preserved by the servant, and proper gain secured to the master; but let it be remembered ale is not

as valuable as human sweat, the constitution must suffer by such experiments.

11. *The losses, crosses, & disappointments in life* instead of leading men to their knees and bibles have led them to try to drown their sorrows in the flowing bowl. There the broken merchant, disappointed lover, bereaved widower, when future hopes are blasted, the insolvent debtor, the abused wife, reproached husband, jealous rival, disgraced citizen, impoverished house-keeper, rejected partner or candidate, oppressed servant, slandered neighbour, the forbidden guest. A wronged heir having endeavoured to sooth their minds by quarts and gallons, have sentenced the rest of their cash to the dram shops among ardent spirits till it is all gone, sorrows have increased, their conditions made worse, and it is very rare that persons begin to consider that the cause must be removed before the effect can cease.

12. The lashes and stings of a guilty conscience settling an uneasiness in the breast through secret crimes committed, have often led persons to launch forth into drunken excesses, the mournful ditty has been changed for the drunkard's song, "drive dull care away." The word of God says there is no peace to the wicked, they are like the troubled sea, which cannot rest from casting up mire and dirt; and Jesus Christ says, "come unto me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest:" to him let every guilty sinner come and remember the time is coming when cups and lips shall meet no more, and in the eternal world all the comedies and tragedies of this life will be developed; the drunkard's work will be rewarded in hell, where the worm of guilt dieth not, and fire of remorse, desire, and despair is not quenched, unless an absolute reformation takes place upon earth before death.

II. The fearful effects of drunkenness are too evident to be overlooked on the present occasion; we shall notice insanity as the most prominent

feature in proportion to intoxicating liquors received, a crazy stupor follows, by slow degrees the brain is diseased, and reason is gradually choked, till sunk below the level of the brute creation, the standard of common knowledge of men and places; drunkards may be led into any error or snare; a child makes a fool of him, though the Apostle does not speak of any result in the text, yet they are supposed, or why the caution. Have not kings and Judges thro' wine become fools and madmen. When the brain through wine becomes disordered and common sense gone, a child's trinket leads him off, his madness is voluntary, the beast is natural; drunkards are unfit for any craft or business; a mental derangement leads them to believe a lie; go into a wild beast's den, or a cannon's mouth, and be a footman for any vagabond; and as Isaiah says 5. 11. he rises only to follow strong drink, and when wine inflames him he forgets the works of the Lord; when reason is absorbed or bewildered the drunkard may be tempted to cut the throat of his bosom friend, or child, or leap into the deep to lull his soul to endless sleep. The sober Christian driuks to quench present thirst, and no more of the choicest and best fluids, often water and milk as they are prepared for him by the hand of God.

2. *Disease of Body* is another great effect produced. Man's stomach was never constituted to receive ardent spirits as a common drink, it repulses the first dose of this drug as well as any other poison; the first taste burns the throat and inflames the blood as well as damages the vitals, and in the end, enfeebles the limbs and shortens human life. Let medical men be consulted, and they will say that nothing is more injurious to the human system than the regular use of spirituous liquors, as they act as a slow poison, and gradually beat down the strongest constitution. The smallest portion taken into the stomach creates thirst, and more is wanted; the blighted appearance of some people, thro' temporary drunken fevers, infirmity medicides or the comforts of a fever ward are wanted:

the weakest part first gives way through the extremes of heat and cold; then follows asthma, shortness of breath, depression of spirits, melancholy, head-aches, sickness, beauty is soon assailed, a very pimpled skin or a pale face which shews that the vitals are suffering. The blossom'd nose shews the love of brandy, besides the diminution of natural heat and strength by imperceptible degrees. We may say with safety that drunkenness is the chief of the chiefest causes of all these, and leads at last to unhonoured and untimely graves. The first doctors in the kingdom have not only protested against too much fermented liquors being drunk, but the common use of distilled spirits which never were designed at first but to be taken as physic, and that two thirds of the people have annually died either directly or indirectly through their baneful influence, as well as other nasty drinks manufactured and vended for the sake of profit. Lord Bacon said that all the crimes upon earth put together do not destroy so much life as drunkenness. Let us consider the governments and virtues of our herbs. Between two and three hundred grow on English soil which are calculated by our kind maker to heal all our diseases till the end of human life.

3. *Poverty* is another effect of drunken excesses, as is well known to be a dear vice; the expenses are great indeed at the ale bench or dram shop, a poor person has never been enriched, but the rich have often become very poor indeed, their purses and treasures have been pocketed by publicans; if every gallon of beer has in it only two pence worth of malt or barley from which it is made, for which he gives 18*d.* or 20*d.* is equal to going to the baker's shop to buy bread, giving 20*d.* for a loaf which cost 2*d.* or give 3*d.* for an eggshell of brandy or rum, when a nettle boiled or $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* of rum will answer a better purpose. Men and women who have contracted the drunken thirst spend all that they get to quench it, yet increases, the fire burns hotter,

And while they seek relief in vain,
They still keep adding to their pain.

observe the circumstances of a drunkard, when there is no opposition to his habits in his family, how soon the house becomes dismantled of its furniture, goods sold, rent and debts unpaid, only bare walls; as Solomon says, Poverty and rags. Why because of the dearness of liquors made by men and sloth to which they lead; the bailiffs and landlord wait at the door, rents and tears in their clothes, business having been neglected, bills unsettled, the source of credit is soon drained dry, the workhouse appears as an asylum, or else bread must be begged from door to door. His moonlight friends all forsake him, he must not sit in the bar parlour having no money to spend, and his shabby torn coat forbids respectable company; his drunken quarrels and law suits thro' slanderous language often commit him to legal custody, then to prison; he then considers how he has murdered his neighbour's character and destroyed his own purse, the wreck of wealth creates him an insolvent debtor, having nothing to pay, he mourns alas! too late, the children look up and are not fed or clothed, the weeping wife comforts herself with gin, no vestige of comfort remains; empty cupboard, hungry belly, all witness the liquor trade which God never made. The above picture is not fully real in drunken cases to the extreme, yet has a tendency in its various stages to lead to the lowest degree of poverty in all cases, for they are inseparably link'd together. Let that be avoided then, which can do us no good in the end, but make us poor indeed.

4. *Crime* always follows drunken excesses in one shape or other, Let our county calendars bear evidence, and our prison reports testify; our judicial courts tell us that three-fourths of the crimes committed in Great Britain, have been through intoxicating liquors, the law cannot tolerate on that ground, yet we find among criminals this is often pleaded as an apology. A draught of ardent spirits will prepare some men with courage to commit the worst crimes, even to kill a bosom friend or child, and

sometimes by hanging, shooting, drowning, or poisoning, end his own wretched existence, welcome the stroke of death, and rush into the presence of the World's Judge, with all his sins upon his guilty head. Burglaries, murders, rapes, arson, robberies, treasons, adulteries, and felonies of various kinds have been committed through liquor, our gaols often crowded with drunkards. Inquire into the coroner's register of suicides and unfortunate deaths thro' drunkenness, the perpetration of crimes is truly appalling. Let the voices of magistrates, judges, and honest juries proclaim the ruin of those who have suffered death on the gallows thro' drunkenness; let our constables and beadles exhibit their handcuffs, the tread mill, the whip, the lonely cell, the stocks, the pillory, the lock-ups, that the minds of the people be not steeled by the use of ardent spirits to the commission of crimes; let Moses and the Prophets, Christ and his Apostles, by law and gospel, dissuade the giddy multitude from the sinful practice of unnecessarily using any kind of intoxicating liquors, lest that be said or done for which no suitable amends afterwards can be made. Banish the criminal cup of drunkenness for ever, lest it bring final woe, for as Isaiah says 24. 9. Strong drink brings bitterness in the end. And why? Because the dearness of liquors made by man, absorbs the money that should be laid by for the landlord or the shopkeeper; bills remain unsettled; the source of credit becomes dry whilst the sloth which these liquors engender disables their votary for the industrious persevering attention to his avocations requisite to regain that credit. The bailiffs appear at the door and the family is turned into the street unhoused and unfriended either to beg their bread from door to door, or become the inmates of a workhouse or a jail. But where are the poor infatuated drunkard's convivial friends? Do none of them come forward to lend him a hand in the hours of distress. Oh no! The same cause that has brought him to ruin, makes them too straightened in their circum-

stances to assist one whose shabby coat forbids his being admitted into the bar parlour, and whose empty pocket places him in the grasp of a legal officer for debt, contracted perhaps in a quarrel. Fed upon a felon's fare he bewails, too late, the fatal cup which has so awfully lowered him in the scale of society. Whenever gin gaineth a favourable entrance, filth, disease, hunger, and crime stand forward in all their hideousness as so many horrible witnesses against the spirit trade which is an upas-tree destroying the objects that supply its own life.

5. *Loss of reputation* is another effect of drunkenness, the damage or destruction of credit is followed by disgrace, employment is hard to be obtained by a known regular drunkard, for very good reasons; the master prefers a sober man to his works, having more confidence in him, as the honesty of a drunkard becomes doubtful, and his company is avoided by all except his own class or order, who only will make allowances for the slovenliness of his dress, the coarseness of his language, the singularity of his political and religious sentiments, and the wickedness of his life.

6. *Unfortunate Accidents* frequently occur through these infatuated excesses; coach falls, ship losses, we cannot forget the Rothsay Castle, the Vela, and others, machinery and engine accidents often follow drunken excesses, cart damages, broken windows and vessels, the falling from off buildings or into rivers, pits, or canals, or down precipices, the taking persons in mistake, thoughtless use of sharp instruments, pistols, or the breaking of limbs by a fall. Let the moderate drinker of ardent spirits read and tremble lest he go so far as to forget his duty and safety; let him read of Nenevah and Babylon, Jeremiah, 51, the breach made by their enemies who entered while they were drunk, & destroyed them all, tho' Belshazzar had seen the writing on the wall, and had been warned by Daniel of that which took place, that night the king, queen, lords and their concubines were slain in their midnight drunkenness.

7. *Loss of Time* through idleness is always consequent upon drunken excesses, which can never be recovered whatever redemption price might be offered by the dying drunkard; bitter repentance can make no amends at all for golden moments lost for ever, which might have been 1000 times better employed, in investigating the works of God in creation, private speculations in economy, history, science, literary productions of the pen, the cruelty of the sword, the variations of character, the wonders of the Bible, plan of redemption by Jesus Christ, the eternal existence of the soul of man, the frailty of human nature, the vanity of this world, the making of improvements in business; the drunkard deprives himself of the pleasures of that time which is wasted away in drunkenness, the mind is uncultivated like the sluggard's vineyard, all covered with brambles, nettles, weeds, and stones. The living day of life is passing away and the night of death is approaching, when no man can work: Let then the study, the library, the fireside, and the house of God be attended to, and the liquor warehouse forsaken for ever.

8. *Loss of domestic and family comforts* is another great evil of drunken excesses, painful family experience corroborates this fact, when a peaceful home is exchanged for the drunkard's circle, bitter language creates a hell at home among parents and children, scolding, cursing, black eyes, bloody noses, broken shins, torn clothes, broken walls and windows, the wages have been spent; adulterous intercourse carried on, old scandals repeated, love and religion banished, the children remain uncatechised, family prayer and reading the Word of God are not practised as they ought to be, sweet home becomes bitter, the bad spirit prevails, and happiness is gone for ever. the children catch the bad spirit and learn to drink like the father the wife begins to love punch and egged ale, and curse, and also to get drunk, a peevish rancour is bred thro' the orgies of the tavern, and a paradise home becomes hell upon earth, and a bosom friend becomes

the bitterest enemy, and as the prophet says, the fathers have eaten the sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.

9. *Bad Example*, or evil influence upon the surrounding neighbourhood or community, upon the rising generation, servants, scholars, tenants, relations, friends, as well as weak-minded people generally, is another result. Noah drank wine to excess, and his children took knowledge of it, and the example has been followed to this day. Drunken misconduct is laughed at by the scornful, and mourned by the godly, as well as written in legible characters on the memories of youth who turn over these pages in their minds another day; but it is a query whether any would ever learn to be drunken unless by example, they were taught when opportunity serves, and the awful account the drunkard will have to give at the bar of God for the evil influence of his mischievous example before the world will be dreadful indeed. In leading men astray from the paths of peace, the sudden deaths of drunken husbands, leaving thousands of widows and orphans as burdens upon the country, not speaking again of pauperism, disease and crime, even among the higher orders of society, and England will never be a truly happy land while drunkenness is tolerated in it.

10. *The Christian Gospel*, or pure religion is hindered from spreading so wide. The drunken barrier is so much in the way. Well might Paul say, "a bishop should not be given to wine for pleasure as a common drink," and have not many fermented and distilled liquors dampened the zeal of many a herald of the Cross, and caused many a child of God to stumble, plans of usefulness have been neglected, circulations of good books, visitations of the sick, instruction of the ignorant, and benevolent bestowment of property for the good of Christ's Church have not been done. Drunkenness unfits the tradesman for business, the soldier for battle, and as Paul says, unfits a man for running his Christian race, and in the text this reason

is understood, our Lord cautioned^d against surfeiting and drunkenness, and in Ezekiel, the priests of the Lord were forbidden the use of intoxicating liquors, on entering the holy place. John the Baptist never tasted wine, neither did Sampson, the strongest man; the Nezarites generally were not wine drinkers, and the Reshabites through the command of Janadem, were prohibited its use for ever, and they remain to this day for ought we know under obedience to the same command. Be not drunk with wine, but the holy spirit, tho' you may be denominated enthusiasts as was said, Acts 2. 13, drunk with new wine early in the morning, or like the poor praying Hannah in the temple of God, when the priest thought she had drunk. How often does the drunkard blaspheme that holy name and deride revealed religion, till conscience becomes seered as with a hot iron; Bible neglected, Christian ordinances slighted, its laws broken, and the bugbear, death, laughed at, every thing sacred and divine is cursed by him, how then does it unfit persons for prayer and the service of God.

11. *Idolatry* which is a breach of the first commandment of God to Israel, is practised by the drunkard who adores his malt and hop God; his wine and spirits are the idol of his heart, he pays daily homage to these Gods, and worships them in their licensed temples; the publican Priests wait at their bar, altars of bells and glasses, pipes and tobacco incense soon rises up in dense vapours. and unhallowed noise with bursts of laughter; it is a house of mirth for the present, the libations of Bacchus cost immense treasure till the civil sword and the gradual approach of the Sabbath day give warning that the doors should be closed, and a warning voice sounds aloud God's sacrifice is given to the devil, and drunkards are idolators, with such is he angry every day, and they shall not go unpunished, tho' hand join in hand, the synagogues of Satan shall be turned into hell with all the nations that forget God. There was no room in the inn for the Son of God at his birth in human nature, and so it is

to this day where men make their bellies their Gods, and glory in their shame ; at Belshazzar's feast they praised Gods of wood and stone at their drunken feast, and their Maker's displeasure was felt, that very night, they were all slain.—Daniel 5, 23.

12. Closes the gate, Glory, which is shut up against every drunkard—1 Corinthians, 6th & 11th verse, and Gal. 5, 21, and how can it be possible he is unfit to be admitted among the godly, or even allowed to enter a place of Christians if found out, and how much more his drunken soul admitted into the heaven of sinless angels and saints above, they would blush and die at the sight. But he does this himself, he renders himself unfit for Heaven by his intoxicating liquors, Dram shops are the way to hell, which is peopled by drunken spirits hurried by friends from the bed of death to the bar of God, when sentence of eternal death has been passed, have been hurried away, the drunkard's prayer for a drop of water instead of wine, will remain unanswered for ever, and there will be weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Hell never won, man has made it for himself by drunken excesses and other sins. Let no man imagine, then, happiness is his own, if he loves any liquors which have such tendencies as I have expressed, and I have no doubt of being supported by parish overseers, justices of peace or magistrates. medical doctors, and all sensible Christians of the above effects of drunkenness in all or any of its degrees or shapes, whether as home fire-side tipplers, or open public-house drunkards.

III. After what has been said, can we suppose there is a cure for drunkenness ; the two first words in the text direct to the remedy, "*Be not drunk,*" I was going to say, never taste at all any drugs or fluids which either hurt the brain and reason, or the stomach and vitals, as our public brewers and distillers produce liquors manufactured by hirelings whether adulterated or not is not to be seen. However, they do manufacture drunkenness, and men may be found who

never taste at all and enjoy health, strength, and pleasure to the greatest of human perfection and ensure to themselves long life. By the help of God, were the first taste is carefully avoided, the first glass is shunned, the first temptation is resisted, these liquors are never used at all, except from extreme necessity. Let young people never meddle with these sharp edged tools, or do worse than play at horses heels; the using of these liquors may ruin them for ever. Do not drink the first glass, or you are beginning in the world with a bad habit; do not embark with a treacherous enemy on board, lest you may be betrayed in the storm; if your constitution be good keep it so, and it will remain, if you boldly say No, observing "Be not drunk," nor enter where drunkenness is encouraged.

2. Practitioners who have been in the habit of drinking moderately, though not to excess, make a final stand. Paul said "Be not, taste not again the unclean thing to parley", is almost to yield, though late in life, "better late than never;" try the experiment of total abstinence for a month, I am bound your purse and health will be no worse. A bottle with a bad habit must be bought, and we are bound to conquer or die. A wholesome nourishing diet and simple beverage will keep the body in health continually, without having on the tables, either at dinner or supper, those liquors which are constantly desolating and distressing the country round about. A better tale will be told at the years end, and instead of the new year being let in by flowing bowls of fancied happiness let a new leaf be turned over and written on it, "no intoxicating liquors allowed in this house except as medicine," and as God's good creatures to be taken with thankfulness, and as Dr. "Dodd said, in a short malt sermon, 'leave off tippling.'

3. Withdraw your support in every possible way from drunken institutions after having struck this many headed monster at the heart, every venomous mouth will be closed. Let no clubs be joined which

are held in public houses, nor be connected with any association where ardent spirits especially are used, or not forbidden to be drunk, a decline will soon be perceived; the drinking trade will serve to establish in our own resolutions against intemperance, and by making proselytes to the cause of sobriety will be a barrier against any future relapses, though, like Paul with Felex, when reasoning on temperance and judgment to come, he said, "go thy way for this time;" the drunkard like him may tremble and say the same, yet cease not to recommend sobriety as the very base of human happiness let us be at our post of duty and our labour shall not be in vain.

4. Listening to the voice of reason and conscience will plead most eloquently against drunkenness, because through it its peace is destroyed, and drinking liquors for pleasure cannot be drunk with the glory of God, and excess therein unfits the Christian for the performance of his duty. Reason pleads as the body is injured thereby, as ardent spirits are known to be deadly poison, though slow in their operations will most assuredly kill the body. As herbs are made to grow spontaneously upon the free earth calculated to heal our diseases, and wounds to strengthen, purge, open, and close, there is corn, fruit, and flowers, milk, honey, oil, and pure water to do us all the good we need,

"Man wants but little here below,
Nor wants that little long."

5. Reading the Scriptures especially and serious publications, and books of science tend to direct attention from drunken practises and make men wise, here is scope for reflection and meditations in leisure hours; the Bible universally protests against drunkenness as a great sin, and in many places powerful warnings are given, a vice which so greatly debases reasonable man which was made in the image of God, and as he said to our first parents, "ye may eat of all

three trees except one, and if ye eat of that ye shall die," he says to the world in the scriptures, "of all the fruits of the earth ye may eat except that which debases reasonable man lower than the brute creation, by creating the drunken thirst, and strips him of all his graces, and convinces him that he is naked indeed. Intoxicating liquors will do this as we have already proved; Joel and Jeremiah tell of many national calamities thro' wine drank, and in one place, Joel 1, 5, says, "awake and howl ye drunkards, weep before iniquity, prove your ruin," wine is forbidden in many places of Scripture, and tolerated only in a few instances.

6. In order to check the sinful progress of drunkenness, with any kind of wines or spirits, temperance societies have been formed, first in America a great part of the people are temperate, and now in most places of Europe, and other parts of the world, in reference to the temperance registers of their amazing prosperity during a few past years, the success of temperance advocates in beating down all opposition to real fact and truth has been very great; in Preston are several thousands who have signed the temperance pledge, which enjoins total abstinence from all spirituous liquors except as medicines prescribed by a physician, and only the occasional or measuring moderate use of fermented liquors, so that drunkenness is not allowed on pain of disgraceful expulsion while the members stand as candidates for good situations in business and reputation in the world, as well the possession of God's blessing in body and soul, in which the world around knows very little-

7. But the greatest cure ever poured out is the grace and love of God, in the soul of man through the redemption of our lord Jesus Christ. Union with a body of Christians in church, fellowship true religion sets all things right within and without, by feelieg the ranks of Christs disciples, our sober and divine master will lead us to all the perfections of righteousness as well as temperance, and thereby prepare us for

judgment to come. When we lay hold of God's strength by prayer and faith he has promised to save us from the drunken snare. Every religious society is a temperate body in effect in the methodist society.

Dram drinking is forbidden in its rules though not perhaps enforced by class leaders as it might, however, spirits are drunk by some who call themselves Christians, not being considered as a matter of conscience, the pet trembles behind & is resorted to. These societies are superior to temperance in principle and ought to be in practice, for it is enjoined be temperate in all things, and after the text, Paul says he filled with the spirit as this heavenly dove cannot dwell with the drunken vulture of hell in the same breast.

8, The final remedy for all intemperance is resolute perseverance to the end of life, for all is well that ends well; if a temperate habit be formed in youth, in old age there will be no danger; the temperate christian is shielded from evil, the habit has never been formed, and therefore his journey through life will be peaceful and honorable; he cannot repent of doing and getting good by every word and work; the frost of winter appears on his head, his sun begins to set in a clear sky, his temperate children rise up and call him blessed, his dying breath points the way to eternal glory; thus my friends and fellow sinners, have I endeavoured to discharge my duty, and clear my conscience, humbly trusting thro' the blessing of God some drunken flamin' bond may be rescued from the fire. and every temperate professing Christian preserved blameless thro' life, and admitted into a temporal paradise where no drunken excesses are known, but joy, peace, and love for ever.