

on which these facts are based, are traceable throughout the whole course of intemperance; and the assertion, that "alcohol is an evil," is placed far beyond the slightest shadow of a doubt, whether viewed from its effects on individual cases, or taken collectively.

It is now impossible to state when fermented liquors were invented, or at what time adulteration was first practised. But if we be permitted to take, as an example, the cases of Noah and Lot, we must unavoidably arrive at the conclusion, that one of these processes must have existed even at that early period, otherwise it will be difficult to conjecture whence the intoxicating properties of wine were derived.

The rapid progress of luxury soon increased the appetite for intoxicating drinks, which will be seen in the great attention that was paid to the cultivation of the vine and other delicious fruits.

In the time of Homer the vine grew wild in the island of Sicily, and on the adjacent continent. But soon these things assumed a different aspect; "for a thousand years afterwards, Italy could boast, that out of the fourscore most generous and celebrated wines, more than two thirds were produced from her own soil." This statement, however, can only refer to the "more celebrated wines, as Pliny asserts, that in his time, the luxurious Romans had no less than one hundred and ninety-five varieties of wines in general use." And you may behold the same spirit of persevering industry pursued in other countries of Europe, in which, for ages, the vine has flourished in rich luxuriance, but in the time of Strabo, were considered incapable of ripening the grape, owing to their severe climate.

Beer, also, was known at a very early period, and is said