

It is literally the wages of iniquity. And hence we say that every respectable and well disposed man, who has thoughtlessly embarked in the traffic of drunkenness, should slip out of the trade as quietly and as quickly as possible, lest peradventure a small portion of the drunkard's blood should be required at his hands. But though we believe the Distiller and the vendor of spirituous liquors to be more directly implicated in the manufacturing of drunkards, and in their guilt and ruin, still we are very far from resting the entire responsibility on their heads. The error lies in public opinion—in the customs and usages of so many, and more especially in the low standard which even pious men have reared for public morality. In short, every man who uses intoxicating drinks as a common beverage, or as an article for common use at his table, whether he uses a large quantity or a small quantity, is, to some extent, responsible for the guilt and misery and ruin of the drunkard. He is guilty in the first place, inasmuch as his example is an open avowal of his belief that the use of spirituous liquors as a common beverage, if not absolutely necessary, is at least harmless.—He is guilty in the second place, in as far as his use of the article is an inducement to the distiller, and the retailer to embark in, and prosecute the traffic; for, it is evident that no decent man would incur the disgrace of opening and keeping a tavern exclusively for the accommodation and debasement of drunkards; and he is guilty in the third place, because he has again and again filled the cup and pressed it upon the poor unfortunate wretch, whose thirst for artificial nervous excitement waxed stronger and more irresistible under the influence of every successive draught, till at length the stage was attained that sealed his doom as a ruined irreclaimable drunkard. Ponder, O reader, on these allegations—commune with thy own soul, know certainly if thou art an accomplice in the perpetuation of that flood of misery which drunkenness is pouring on humanity, and remember, that "for all these things God will bring thee into judgment!"—*Huron Signal.*

ALCOHOL NOT NUTRITIOUS.

The following letter is the second of a series of well written articles on the subject of "Alcohol," from the pen of a highly respectable clergyman of a neighboring township:—

To the Editor of the Montreal Transcript.

SIR,—Having in my previous communication endeavored to show the process of the production of alcohol, and the proportions in which this article is found in different kinds of intoxicating drinks, I shall attempt to show that alcohol is not nutritious.

Though manufactured from nutritious substances, it contains no nourishment. That principle is, by the process of manufacture, utterly destroyed. It is a great mistake to suppose, as many do, that intoxicating liquors must be nourishing to the body, constituting, as they do, the very essence of fruit, grain, and molasses, which are confessedly nutritious. This no more follows, as a matter of course, than it does that putrified fruit or flesh is nutritious, because these articles in their natural state are nutritious. It is in its nature and effects as unlike the substances from which it is made, as putrified substances are unlike what they naturally were.

That alcohol is not nutritious might be shown both from its nature, and by an examination of the innumerable instances of disease, premature decay, old age, and death, resulting from its use. It is combined of gases in such proportions, as render it incapable of nutrition. But this evidence will not now be dwelt upon. *One class of witnesses only will be called in—I mean Physicians.* They are sufficient for my purpose.—They have the intelligence necessary to render their testimony decisive and final. Their

chemical knowledge, qualifies them to analyse alcohol and ascertain its nature. Their knowledge of the physiology and anatomy of man enables them to decide correctly concerning the effects of this article upon the human body. And in thousands of instances, both when ministering to the sick inebriate, and when dissecting his body, after death, they have seen the most convincing indications of the deleterious effects of alcohol upon the body. Never were witnesses better qualified to testify in any given case than physicians are in this. And never was the testimony of any witnesses more unanimous, than is that of physicians in this case. It is so clear, decisive, and convincing, that it has convinced a large portion of the most intelligent men and women of the present generation, throughout the civilized world, that alcohol is not nutritious—that it is utterly incapable of affording the least degree of nourishment to man. They would no more use it for nourishment than they would a solution of nitric acid. None can set aside this testimony and decide contrary to it, without rejecting fundamental and important truth, and adopting the most ruinous error.

But to the testimony. A few examples only, as specimens of thousands, will be given.

Dr. Gridley says, "alcohol contains nothing that can give nourishment to man." Says Dr. Alden, "In any quantity intoxicating liquor is an enemy to the human constitution." Says Dr. Emlin, "They are mischievous under all circumstances." Says Dr. Edwards, author of the Permanent Temperance Documents, "Alcohol is a substance which, in its nature, is unfit for the purposes of nutrition." Dr. R. D. Massey, Prof. in the Medical College in Cincinnati, Ohio, says, "Alcohol is altogether distinct from substances, which in their nature are nutritious. It is never digested nor converted into nutriment." Such opinions are on record, both from European and American Physicians, in great numbers.

Alcohol cannot nourish the body, because it is indigestible. All food taken into the stomach must undergo a change, be converted into blood, before it can nourish the body.—This change is called digestion. It is wrought principally by a fluid, secreted in the mucous membrane of the stomach called the gastric juice. Whatever this juice digests and converts into blood, nourishes the body; and whatever it does not digest and convert into blood, does not nourish the body. It does not digest alcohol—it does not and cannot change its nature. It is alcohol in the stomach, and in all its course through the system, until it is thrown out as an enemy. Therefore alcohol cannot nourish the body. That it remains alcohol in every part of the system has been proved by many experiments, which have long since been given to the world. This is the language of Dr Kirk, of London, on this point—"Ardent spirit contains a narcotic stimulant—that is, alcohol. It is absorbed into the blood, circulates through the lungs, and is exhaled through the numerous vessels containing the circulating blood of these organs, and not only so, the vessels of the brain are loaded with it. I dissected a man, who died in a state of intoxication. The operation was performed a few hours after death. In the two cavities of the brain, the lateral ventricles, was found the usual quantity of limpid fluid. When we smelled it, the odor of the whisky was distinctly visible, and when we applied a candle to it in a spoon, it actually burned blue, the lambient blue flame characteristic of alcohol playing on the surface of the spoon for some seconds."

Alcohol, though carried by the circulation into the brain, is alcohol still. Dr Edwards in the Permanent Temperance Documents states this fact. "A drunkard was bled into a vessel in one of the streets of Boston. The vessel was set upon the side-walk. A dog passing by drank the blood and was intoxicated." The writer some years since, saw a gentleman