

THE DRINK EVIL.

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Wine-making and wine-drinking have as most things been discovered by accident. An earthen vessel containing some half-crushed grapes was forgotten somewhere in a nook and left to ferment. The youngster ever looking for mischief and adventure has given the effervescent beverage due relish and partially intoxicated, came back to his parents. Upon the discovery of the cause of the child's intoxication, the parents too were not loathe to partake of the potion, experiencing of course, the same exhilarating effects. Thus drinking and the making of drink occurred simultaneously and ultimately developed into an established habit.

The history of drinking and its habits are very ancient. The discovery of alcohol, like the invention of gun powder, may be ascribed to the alchemists and monks of the 12th century. The credit of first making liquors from fermented grain, belongs to the Arabians. The first case of inebriety is related in the Bible, (Gen. IX, 20, 21.) The Spartans, in order to make manifest the abominable effects of drunkenness exposed their slaves while in a state of intoxication, to the disgust of the spectators. Heroditus as early as 500 B. C., had cause to protest against a strongly prevailing inebriety. "Drunkenness," he said, "showeth that the mind and soul were sick." Rome, once the mistress of the world, caused its ruin by the adoption of Bacchannalianism. The fall of Hannibal's army was due to the wines of Capia.

Alexander, the Macedonian, the military wonder of antiquity, was cut off from his career at an early age by the indulgence in wine at one of his celebrated feasts. So too, can the decline of Assyria, Persia, Babylonia, Macedonia and Greece be ascribed to too much wine drinking.

Nor was wine the only beverage of ancient times. The famous historian, Tacitus, states that ale and beer were much in vogue among the Teutonic tribes of his period. The ancient monastery, like the one near the Wartburg, immortalized by Scheffel in his "Ekkehard," did not altogether abhor the use of spirits. The conquering Huns too soon acquired a strong taste for liquors. Even so great a man as Martin Luther had the boldness to assert that without *wine*, song and woman, the wisest man remains a fool.

This brief historical review sets forth the universality of the drinking habit. How this habit has in time established its control will now be the effort of our inquiry. As long as human beings were unaware of the effect of this great stimulus, alcohol, no additional measures were demanded to sustain activity. The knowledge of the action of spirits has given man a means wherewith he may become more daring and