

Such, then are some of the effects produced by alcohol on the human constitution. It weakens the physical powers, inducing various forms of disease. It perverts the judgment, and causes weakness and confusion of the mental forces. Perception, memory, judgment, conscience, are all injuriously affected. Well did the wise man say, "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes strong drink; lest they drink and FORGET the law and PERVERT the judgment of any of the afflicted." And if these are the effects of alcohol, as science and experience alike testify, is there not point in the text:—"They also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink;.....they err in vision, they stumble in judgment."

Verily, "Wine is a mocker." It comes in the guise of the old tempter, saying—"It is good for food, and pleasant to the eyes, and to be desired to make one wise;" but it perverts each god-like power of the human soul, and leads to degradation, sorrow, and death. It is deceptive in its *nature*, for men regard it as food, while in reality it is but a drug, and a poisonous one at that. It is deceptive in its *effects*; for while it promises strength, in reality it produces weakness; and not content with lessening physical vigor, it perverts the judgment, the conscience, the heart, and pauses not in its career of destruction till it has stamped out of its victim the last spark of manhood, and left him without hope for this world or for the next.

Behold, then, this giant social evil! See how it destroys families, wastes property, fills our prisons and asylums, increases our financial burdens, debases our public men; and say are we not justified in seeking, by all legitimate means, to array public, and especially christian, sentiment against the drinking customs of the day?

Let us now turn to a question of great practical importance,—

II.—WHEREIN LIES THE STRENGTH OF THIS GREAT SOCIAL VICE? It lies

1.—*In the cupidity of avaricious men.*—There are few departments of trade in which such large profits can be made with so