

many New England men, and to our shame be it spoken, at least a few Bostonians. The loss of life on an estate owned by one of the latter, when it was in preparation for sugar cultivation, was stated by a physician who resided upon it in his medical capacity, to have been forty per cent.—*Boston Courier.*

PRIZE ESSAY ON ARDENT SPIRITS.

(Continued.)

In so far as we are acquainted with the powers of the stomach, we have no evidence that it is capable of digesting or decomposing alcohol. Dr. Beaumont, in his experiments with St. Martin, observed that neither alcohol nor fermented liquors, nor other fluids, not holding aliment in solution, are changed by the gastric juice, but very soon after being received, pass out of the stomach either through the pylorus or by absorption. And from the fact of an alcoholic exhalation from the lungs existing for several hours after the drinking of intoxicating liquor, as appears from the odor of the breath, it is to be inferred that no healthy animal process whatever can accomplish its dissolution. The stomach and its auxiliary organs act upon the thousands of nutritive articles, decomposing them, changing their nature, and preparing them to become a component part of the organs themselves; but the versatile and wonder-working agencies of animal chemistry seem powerless when brought to operate upon this uncongenial and refractory material. In the stomach it is alcohol, in the lungs it is alcohol, in the brain it is alcohol: and as the organs are unable to break down its elements and render it nutritive or harmless, they throw it out at every emunctory and pore; not, however, until it has left upon the vital tissues and movements the impress of mischief, which being reiterated from day to day and year to year, brings premature decay, disease, and dissolution.

CHAPTER III.

Is there any condition of the system in health or disease, in which its use is indispensable, and for which there is not an adequate substitute?

Of the effects of alcohol as a beverage in health there ought to be but one opinion. The whole history of spirit drinking whether simple, or combined with the different ingredients existing in fermented or brewed liquors, affords abundant proof of its being uncongenial with the most natural and healthy actions of the bodily organs. How wide from the truth is the notion that spirit aids the stomach in the process of digestion.

Dr. Beddoes observed that, 'animals to whom he had given spirits along with their food, had digested nearly one half less than other like animals to whom none had been given.' Under the habitual use of spirit, the daily dose may give a temporary alleviation to the irritated nerves of the stomach already enfeebled, but instead of conferring tone or vigor to that organ, it only serves to perpetuate its disease or debility.

In the case of St. Martin, the young man before mentioned, into whose stomach through the side, a large opening was left after the healing of a severe wound, Dr. Beaumont frequently observed diseased appearances;—as, red or purple spots upon the lining membrane of the stomach, from some of which exuded small drops of grumous blood;—aphthous or canker patches upon the same membrane; 'the gastric fluids mixed with a large proportion of rosy mucus, and mucopurulent matter slightly tinged with blood, resembling the discharge from the bowels in some cases of dysentery.' It is worthy of remark that these beginnings of disease were not always accompanied with the external signs or symptoms of disorder. When of considerable standing, however, these appearances were occasionally observed to be attended with 'an uneasy sensation and tenderness at the pit of the stomach, and some dizziness and dimness and yellowness of vision on stooping down and rising again,' also, with a brown coat upon the tongue, and a slight sallowness of the countenance.

'Improper indulgence in eating and drinking,' says Dr. Beaumont, 'has been the most common precursor of these diseased conditions of the coats of the stomach. The free use of ardent spirits, wine, beer, or any intoxicating liquor, when continued for some days has invariably produced these morbid changes.'

In evidence of the directly poisonous influence of alcoholic drinks upon the constitution, is the fact, that men long accustomed to their daily use may be taken off suddenly and entirely from it, not only without impairing the health, but with a certainty of improving it. In the summer of 1829, Mr. Powers, agent and keeper of the Penitentiary at Auburn, N. Y. declared, that during several years' residence in that institution, he had never known an individual whose health had not been benefited by the total abstraction of spirit and every other stimulant drink and narcotic from his diet. This testimony is very important, inasmuch as a large proportion of the whole number of convicts when admitted to that establishment are drinkers of alcoholic liquors, from tipping to beastly drunkenness. 'These drinkers,' said Mr. P. are generally very uneasy and nervous, and sometimes greatly distressed for ten or fifteen days after being put upon water as their exclusive beverage; but after that period they have a good appetite, ease in flesh and become healthy.' A considerable number daily received and discharged; the average number re-

maining in the penitentiary, was six hundred. I have never seen so large a congregation of men so healthily looking as these convicts, when they came into the chapel on Sabbath morning to hear a sermon from their chaplain. Some of these men were sixty years old when admitted, and were confirmed drunkards. The evidence furnished by all our state prisons, where similar discipline is practised, is of the same character.

SCRAPS.

EARTH'S CHILDREN CLEAVE TO EARTH.

Earth's children cleave to earth—her frail
Decaying children dread decay,
Yon wreath of mist that leaves the vale,
And lessens in the morning ray:
Look how by mountain rivulet,
It lingers as it upward creeps,
And clings to fern and copsewood set
Along the green and dewy steeps:
Clings to the fragrant kalmia, clings
To precipices fringed with grass;
Dark maples where the wood-thrush sings;
And bowers of fragrant sassafras.
Yet all in vain—it passes still
From hold to hold, it cannot stay,
And in the very beams that fill
The world with glory, wastes away;
Till, parting from the mountain's brow
It vanishes from human eye;
And that which sprung of earth is now
A portion of the glorious sky.

Bryant.

Figurative language, when not carried to excess, is highly agreeable to taste and imagination; it gives splendour to poetry, lustre to eloquence, expression to passion, dignity to sentiment, and poignancy to wit; it is the elegant mantle which delicacy throws over all that is gross, or vulgar, or deformed; it is the splendid robe of fancy and graceful dress of the muses—nevertheless, it is this same license in speech, this free and various colouring of thought which chiefly helps to perplex us in the study of logic, in the science of metaphysics, and indeed in all our inquiries concerning our mental constitution.

THE RUINS OF JERICHO.—The glory of this famous city is departed, and a solitary square tower, called by the monks the house of Zaccheus, is all that remains on the site of the once grand fortifications. A few hedges of wild cactus have supplanted the walls that fell under the blast of Joshua's trumpet; and since the days of Hiel the Bethelite, none has been found bold enough to fly in the face of the solemn denunciation against the rebuilder of Jericho. A few, very few, mud huts, tenanted by naked Arabs, and scarcely visible till closely approached, constitute the modern village of Riblah, the Turkish name for Jericho.—*Elliot's Travels.*

CURIOUS CUSTOM.—In the canton of Casle, in Switzerland, there is a law which compels every newly married couple to plant six trees immediately after this ceremony, and two more on the birth of every child. They are planted on commons, frequently near the high road, and the greater part of them, being fruit trees, are at once both useful and ornamental. The number planted is said to amount to ten thousand annually.

LITERATURE.—Sir Walter Scott, in conversing with a young man who was about to embark upon the perilous voyage of letters, in search of fortune and fame, made to him this pithy remark—it contains a volume: 'Literature, my young friend, is a good staff, but a bad crutch.'

LIBERTY.—Political liberty does not consist in being able to do what we wish, but in being able to do what we ought to wish.

SINCERITY.—To practice sincerity, is to speak as we think; to do as we profess; to perform what we promise; and really to be what we would seem and appear to be.

VERY EXTRAORDINARY.—There are now confined in the public and private establishments for the treatment of insanity in London and its neighborhood, no fewer than sixty men and women who consider themselves the legitimate but unacknowledged sovereigns of the country.

If a person is bent on quarrelling with you, leave him to do the whole of it himself, and he will soon become weary of the unencouraged occupation.

Go not to bed till you are wiser than when you arose; for observation, experience and reflection, the elements of wisdom, are the property of all those who like to enjoy them.

BEAUTY.—We have high authority for the opinion, that perfect loveliness is only to be found where the features, even when most beautiful, derive their peculiar charm from the sweetness and gentleness of disposition which the countenance expresses.

EFFECTS OF FLATTERY.—An unsuccessful lover was asked by what means he lost his divinity: 'Alas,' cried he, 'I flattered her until she got too proud to speak to me.'

The true Christian never goes out of his way to seek riches and dignities, but he does not scorn and reject them if they fall in his way, and seem to come in the order of Providence.

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 20, 1839.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.—We last week gave some particular of the money market, as furnished by English dates to Nov. 16th. The crops of the United Kingdom, it is said, will not show such a deficiency in quantity as was experienced last year, but the quality is described as much worse than that of last year's crops. The steamship *President*, 600 horse power, is expected to cross the Atlantic in April next.—The Ship of war *Imogen* arrived at Portsmouth from South America, on Nov. 15th, with cash, to merchants, to the amount of £600,000.—The marriage of the Queen to Prince Albert is still rumoured. The Prince's outfit and revenue, is stated by the gossiping journals, we know not on what authority.—The upsetting of a carriage in which Lord Brougham was journeying, gave occasion for a practical joke, not very becoming, but which has made some noise. A letter, purporting to be written by his Lordship's travelling companion, was forwarded to London, stating that the accident had been fatal to the great man. The journals immediately took up the subject, and a number of obituary notices appeared, very eloquent, on his Lordship's character, and history. Most of these were highly complimentary; but in the midst of the glorification, his Lordship spoiled the sport, by writing to town, declaring that he really was not dead at all, and that therefore the remarks were rather premature. Immediately the wind changed,—the hoaxer got pummelled, sundry insinuations were thrown out that his Lordship himself was at the bottom of the whole, and dissatisfaction, at the resuscitation, and the spoiling of so many fine paragraphs, was but clumsily concealed.

Numerous indications of conspiracies had been discovered in France; consisting of manufactories of powder, balls, arms, &c. Many seizures and arrests had been made.

The Russians expected war, from the immense military operations in progress in the Empire. Conspiracies, however, appear to be numerous, and serious, among the Autocrat's subjects, and his finances are said not to be on the war establishment.

France showed a disposition to countenance the pretensions of the Pacha of Egypt, while England, Austria, and Prussia support the Sultan's views. Mehemet holds the fleet, and seems resolved to have a good deal of his own way notwithstanding the advice of the great powers.

The British Government had, formally, refused to indemnify the opium dealers, for the quantities of the drug destroyed by the government of China. A loss of about £2,000,000 will be the penalty for continuing the prohibited traffic.

Political discussions still occupied public attention in Canada. A petition to the Legislature was in course of signature in Upper Canada, praying for an Alien Law, and a new-test at elections. The former has reference to "Americans" resident in the Province,—the latter to persons who have been implicated in treasonable movements. The question of the Union of the Provinces elicits much warmth. Such a step, without the prostration of the French Canadian power, is described as strongly tending to the separation of Canada from Great Britain, and its junction with the United States.

The Governor General opened the Upper Canada Legislative Session on Dec. 3. After calling attention to the questions in which the Canadas are peculiarly interested, his Excellency said that he had no grounds for apprehending a recurrence of aggression on the frontier, but that if these disgraceful proceedings should be renewed, means of ample defence were in possession and would be called into action.

TEMPERANCE.—Items in British papers show that the cause of Temperance, a cause in which every man is interested, is making much progress in the old country. Many of the higher classes exert themselves with much effect in England, and in Ireland Roman Catholic and other Clergymen have done great good. At Dungarvan recently, (a small town in the South of Ireland) a procession of 3000 persons, members of Temperance societies, marched on a Sunday through the town. Many publicans had relinquished the sale of ardent spirits, and had commenced modes of living more in accordance with the improved views of the present time. A new London Police Act prevents the sale of ardent liquors on Sunday forenoons, and the regulation caused an immediate improvement in the observance of the sacred day. A vast field for the Philanthropic is presented in London, as, in degree, is in most large towns. In the great metropolis, it is stated, there are 550,500 adult persons who do not attend a place of worship,—there are 660 buildings devoted to divine worship, and 5000 licensed public houses. The facts are striking indeed, and call loudly on the pious and benevolent to be up and doing. In every town and every community "there is ample room and verge enough" for those who are zealous in good works, who wish to be distinguished among those who love their brethren, and who see brethren wherever they see men.