

Poetry.

ON INTEMPERANCE.

O THAT my head were waters, and mine eyes
Fountains, from which incessant tears might flow—
That I might mourn my country's miseries,
Her children whom Intemperance has laid low!

His name is Legion. Numerous ills we find,
That from this source derived beset life's path;
Dire penury, disgrace, a wounded mind,
Disease, insanity, a hopeless death.

Whence are the sorrows? whence the bitter woes
That parents, spouses, hapless children, feel?
Their soul-distracting grief no stranger knows,
Weeping o'er wounds they lack the power to heal.

Whose are the babblings? Whose the speech im-
pure.

Unnam'd by Christians? Whose the jest profane?
Whose the degrading wish, their revels o'er,
To riot in the giddy joys again?

Whose are the causeless wounds, the groundless
strife?

Who, 'gainst his friend, the murd'rous weapon
draws?

Who in one horrid moment forfeits life,
A victim to his country's outraged laws?

To whom does redness of the eyes belong?
Trembling delirium, pain, death premature?
To them who at the wine continue long;
Whom poisoned draughts to swift destruction lure.

By Heaven admonish'd, O beware, beware!
For who can dwell with everlasting pain?
The Scriptures of unerring truth declare,
No drunkard shall eternal life attain.

Great God! may this black demon, with his train,
From their usurped dominion straight be hurled;
Hasten of Temp'rance the auspicious reign,
And sweep the moral pestilence from the world.

Temp. Record, Glasgow.

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May 1, 1835.

JAMES COURT.

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