

strong and conclusive evidence of their offensive character. To our poor brother man they have proved a rock of offence, against which his brightest hopes have been dashed to atoms for ages and ages! "Over their cups," have millions of the brightest among men stumbled to everlasting misery! And millions more will find themselves exposed to eternal punishment, if the followers of Christ will not arouse themselves, and declare in all the fulness of Christian love that they will never taste them, and thereby brand them with deserved eternal disgrace! So has the Church of God acted in ages that are gone by. So it ought, so it must, so it will act now! Lest the idolatrous customs of the heathen should prove an offence to the children of Israel, God prohibited the use of such of them as were in themselves entirely harmless. When the brazen serpent became a stumbling block, it was destroyed. And the many allusions in the texts already quoted, prove to a demonstration that it is the duty of Christians to unite in measures for the edification of one another, rather than persist in a course of action highly offensive and dangerous to their weaker brethren. Being morally bound to abstain from things offensive to others, it follows, without a single link of intermediate reasoning, that we are morally bound to discard intoxicating drinks. Would that all Christians were prepared to take this step! Verily the whole world would unite in one grateful anthem of praise, and the morning stars would again sing together for joy!

### THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

BY THE CLEANER.

Do you know Mr. Editor, that there is a haunted house in the city? Well, whether you know it or not, such is the fact; a fact which was first made known to me by my friend John Johnson, a man on whose veracity I place the most implicit confidence. But this was a matter of too much importance, and which conflicted too much with the teachings of modern philosophy, to be credited without the most thorough investigation; and fearing that my friend might have been imposed upon, I thought it best to go myself, and make a personal examination of the premises.

The result was, that I came away, fully convinced of the correctness of my friend's statement, and I have now no hesitation in saying, that the house is actually haunted! People may call me ignorant and superstitious, or what they will, I cannot help it; the evidence of my own senses is too strong, to be borne down by the reasoning, ridicule, or sneers of those who have not had the same opportunities of judging with myself. I therefore repeat the assertion that the house is haunted, and haunted too, by a set of the most malicious demons, that were ever permitted to sport with the frailties of suffering humanity. I remember having read, a number of years ago, either in Walter Scott's *Demonology* and *Witchcraft*, or Brewster's *Natural Magic*, I do not recollect which, an account of a house that was supposed to have been haunted. And I remember too, how naturally, and philosophically the phenomena were accounted for; but this is an affair of a very different character, and which no such reasoning, no such philosophy can explain.

In the case alluded to, the pranks of the exposed demons were of a comparatively innocent character, consisting of slamming of doors, making of strange noises, the causing of cups and saucers to leap from the table, chairs to dance about the floor, and the like, all of which upon investigation, proved to be the work of a servant, skilled in ledgerdom, who received her talents in this way, either for her amusement, or for the purpose of avenging herself on account of some real or supposed injury. But the case before us, as I observed above, admits of no such solution.

They have no servants, and none but demons would torment a family, in the manner that this one is tormented; tearing their clothes from their backs, robbing them of their

earnings, snatching the bread from their mouths, and other ways treating them most shamefully. The youngest child, actually died of cold last winter, and the whole family would have perished of want, (the demons having deprived them of everything,) had it not been for some of the neighbours who happened to discover their condition in time to save them from destruction.

Nor would there be anything gained by change of place, for the demons follow them wherever they go; and on the father they are almost as constant in their attendance as his own shadow; constantly abusing him, and getting him into difficulties. He has frequently been known to set out for market, with the intention of procuring a breakfast or dinner for his family, when before he had proceeded half way, the demons would rob him of every penny in his possession, then roll him in the mire, and otherways maltreat him, so that he would have to be carried home in a state of utter helplessness.

He was originally a kind husband and father, but since the demons have gained ascendancy over him, he has become little better than a demon himself; abusing his wife and children in every possible way. How much the poor man himself suffers, no one can tell. The spirits seem to take delight in tormenting him, by calling up the most frightful spectres, and torturing him with every imaginary ill, and yet by some strange imputation, he clings to them as if they were his very best friends.

Such are a few of the facts in this extraordinary affair. Not half of what has come to my knowledge has been told, but I feared to tell more, least my story should be discredited. And I fear now that there are some, who will not believe me. But where is the house? some will ask. Tell us the street and number, that we may go and examine for ourselves.

Not so fast good people, not so fast; I have too much consideration for the night hours, to send the whole city about their ears. It is bad enough to have the haunted house near them, without having the additional annoyance of the crowds, who would congregate around them, if the locality were generally known; so that for the present you must content yourselves with the statement of one whose veracity is unquestioned, and who never judges hastily; but should you wish to know the character of the spirits who infest this house, I would inform you, that they are the kind commonly known as—**ARRENT SPIRITS.**

N. B.—Since writing the above, I have been informed that there are a number of other houses in the city, haunted in the manner similar to the one I have been describing, and that the authorities have been applied to for relief, and was found that they were actually in league with the demons! This I can hardly believe, but I trust the matter will be investigated; and should the statement prove true that the people will take the affair into their own hands.

### WHISKEY AND THE MONKEY.

(From the *American Temperance Union.*)

During a recent series of meetings in New York city, one of the delegates from the Baltimore Temperance Society related the following:—

Mr. Pollard concluded the meeting. He said he was kind of old Blucher to bring up the rear. So much has been said, he scarce knew what to talk about. In his drinking days he was the companion of a man down in An Arundel county, who had a monkey which he valued at thousand dollars. We always took him out on our chestnut parties. He shook off all our chestnuts for us, and when we could not shake them off, he would go to the very end of a limb and knock them off with his fist. This was great sport for us. One day we stopped at a tavern and drank freely. About half a glass of whiskey was left, and Jack took the glass and drank it all up. Soon he was merry; skipped, hopped