

together; and prided himself on being able to exceed his companions in these abominable pleasures. The circumstances relating to his death will sufficiently show how entirely he was abandoned to this accursed practice.

History represents him as "forever solemnizing new festivals, and perpetually at new banquets, in which he quaffed with his usual intemperance. After having spent a whole night, and part of the following day in carousing, a second entertainment was proposed to him. He went accordingly, and there were twenty guests at table. He drank to the health of every person in the company, and then pledged them severally. He then called for Hercules' cup, which held *six bottles*; it was filled, and the whole of it drank by him to a certain Macedonian, named Proteus, whom he afterwards pledged again in the same enormous bumper. He had no sooner swallowed it than he fell upon the floor." "Here, then," cries Seneca, (in his description of the fatal effects of drunkenness,) "is this hero, invincible by all the toils of prodigious marches, by the dangers of sieges and combats, of the most violent extremes of heat and cold; here he lies, conquered by his intemperance, and struck to the earth by the fatal cup of Hercules." In this condition he was seized with a fever, of which he died shortly afterwards.

Some suspect that he was poisoned; and no doubt he was, but with that poison which has killed so many thousands besides him, to wit—the unhallowed cup of intoxication.

And, here, again, you will observe, are to be traced the pernicious consequences of this insidious evil. That all-destroying enemy, which removed this great conqueror from the scene of his immense conquests, had long been making sad desolation throughout his whole dominions.