

of the light which has been thrown on this subject, one of the monsters is to be introduced here, and that ere long we may expect to see it doing the work of death in our midst.

It is an important and interesting fact concerning prodigious animals, that not one of them has been designed to prey on man. That a lion or a tiger sometimes surprises the traveller among the brushwood of Africa, or the jungle of Bengal, is certainly true. But such catastrophes are accidental and but rarely occur. The function of the carnivora appears to be to "maintain the balance of power" between the contending swarms of earth's irrational offspring, and their food generally consists of the "lower orders" of creation. Not so the Worm of the Still. It passes over the inferior creatures, and preys on man alone. This most monstrous of all monsters feeds and fattens on human wretchedness.

The Worm of the Still is more decidedly poisonous than any other animal. Its poison is produced in such enormous quantities that it requires to be stored up in large barrels, whereas that of the copperhead and the rattlesnake needs only small bags to hold it. Moreover, the poison of a serpent may be swallowed without doing any harm, there being no danger from it except when injected into a puncture; but that of the Worm of the Still operates from the stomach with such force as to cause stupor, delirium and death.

Another melancholy fact is, that the Worm of the Still extracts its poison solely from human food, of which it consumes immense quantities. Yes, a large portion of that golden grain which, you have been delighted to see waving on our fields with so much luxuriance and beauty, and which our Heavenly Father has sent for food to his children, will be converted by the Worm of the Still into that deadly poison by which it destroys its victims. At present we hear a terrible outcry about the potato rot, but hardly a word about the millions of bushels of grain that will be swallowed by the infernal monster, and by it converted into body and soul destroying poison.

Fortunately for mankind, the Worm of the Still cannot spring upon its prey like a tiger, "nor go about like a roaring lion, seeking whom it may devour." Indeed, it possesses no locomotive powers whatever, and would be absolutely harmless but for the co-operation of human beings. Its retreat is generally by the side of a stream or in the neighborhood of large cities. Like all wild animals, the stench of its lair is intolerable, and there have been instances of persons perishing by incautiously venturing into the deeper parts of its den, where they were choked by its noxious effluvia. There, surrounded by fire and smoke, the monster both day and night elaborates its poison, which is collected with greater care than if it were milk, and sent to all parts of the country. And strange to tell, men are every where to be found who regard this poison as their chief good, and who, to obtain it, will freely give gold and silver, houses and lands, yea all that they possess.

Some twenty or twenty-five years ago, the dreadful ravages of the Worm of the Still excited general attention, and led to an attempt to tame, if not destroy the monster. The expedient was ludicrous enough. It was the drinking of the weaker poison of another monster of the same family called the Brewer's Vat. The whole affair, as might have been expected, proved a failure, and ended in disappointment. A few individuals, however, who had taken part in this abortive attempt, subsequently made a discovery, which, like all great discoveries, was chiefly remarkable for its simplicity. It was an infallible method of being safe from the Worm of the Still, the Brewer's Vat, and all similar monsters, and consisted simply in letting their poison alone. The scheme was laughed at by some, opposed by others, and some men pretending to be the only authorized expounders of the Bible, went the length of denouncing it as infidelity in disguise. But the scheme spread notwithstanding, and is spreading still. No man arrived at years of discretion need be destroyed by the Worm of the Still, and parents who teach their inexperienced and unsuspecting children to imbibe the deadly poison, deserve to be punished, and that they will be punished is as sure as that there is a God in Heaven.

Another part of the discovery is the interesting and important fact, that this monster will perish if nobody drinks its poison. Thus the same beautiful and powerful principle—"let it alone" at once preserves mankind and destroys the Worm of the Still.

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