

TO THE READER.

It has been suggested to the author that the publication of this brochure, under the title of "THAT BOWL OF PUNCH," might lead the public to entertain the opinion, that he godfathers proclivities to habits of indulgence and excess.

The fairness of such an assumption he indignantly challenges.

He looks upon the habitual drunkard as a social leper, whose breath is poison, who barter the love of wife and child, the ties of home, high self-esteem, and all that makes life pure and happy for a grovelling, base, and sensual gratification of a selfish passion.

He, then, dedicates these pages to those to whom the motto *nunc est bibendum* has a limited and sensible signification—in fact to all good lovers of temperance and sobriety who, like himself, can use, not abuse, a gift of an all-wise Providence.