

A striking instance of the mental confusion produced by strong drink, is recorded in the Word of God. If you turn to the 10th chapter of Leviticus you will find an account of the death of Nadab and Abihu, two sons of Aaron. These men offered "strange fire before the Lord," "and there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them; and they died before the Lord." That is, they made use of "common" incense, contrary to the Divine commandment, (Exodus 30. 9,) and suffered death as the penalty of their disobedience. But what has this to do with the effects of alcohol on the mental powers. Read the 8th and two following verses, and you will see:

*"And the Lord spake unto Aaron, saying, Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations; and that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean."*

Now let any one read the preceding narrative in the light of these verses, and he will inevitably reach the conclusion that the cause of the sin committed by Nadab and Abihu was—*mental confusion produced by strong drink*.

Furthermore, alcohol *inflames the passions*, but never with a pure or upward tendency. On the contrary its tendency is to degrade and pervert,—in a word, to *animalize*. It needs no argument to prove that this is a state peculiarly dangerous as regards the commission of crime. With reason clouded, the passions inflamed, and the power of voluntary control lessened, what crime is there which such a man is not liable to commit?

(3.) *Its effects on the moral powers.*—The effects of alcohol on the moral powers do not appear so quickly as its effects on the physical constitution. It is usually after the habit of using strong drink has become confirmed that the evidences of moral ruin come clearly to light. Alcohol works secretly as well as silently upon the moral powers; but when at last the veil is drawn aside, the ruin is most complete. Truth, honor, honesty, are extinguished in the drunkard—*eaten out* of him by the poisonous drug. A case in point will illustrate what I mean. A clergyman came to consult Dr. Miller, of Edinburgh, professionally. The Doctor saw at once it was a case of habitual intoxication, and when he stated his conviction the clergyman