

though a man according to God's heart, he did not refuse it with indignation as modern abstainers would, but gladly received and used it though it made Nabal drunk at home. In the absence of any evidence of unfermented wine, we must conclude that God approved of the sober use of intoxicating liquor. Abstainers cannot yet yield their fond theory, but say that there were other kinds of wine that were unfermented, such as those called, *tirosh*, *shemer*, *chemer*, *shechar*, *mesek*, *mimzak*, *mezeg*, and other kinds. The word *tirosh*, which is rendered "new wine" is formed from *yarash* to possess, and seems to indicate the power of possessing the nerves and brains. It is used thirty-seven times in the Hebrew Bible, and is rendered by words that signify fermented liquor in the Syriac, Arabic, Chaldee, and Vulgate scriptures. A passage in the prophecy of Hosea puts the matter out of dispute. "Whoredom and wine (*yayin*) and new wine (*tirosh*) take away the heart;" Hosea iv. 11. *Shemer*, though so confidently asserted to be a name for the "pure juice of the grape," is formed from *shamar*, to keep, and means, not a liquor, but the lees of wine, and therefore not fit for use as food or drink. We have the word in the place where it is said, "In the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine (*yayin*,) is red, (*chamar*) i.e. in a state of fermentation, it is full of mixture (*mesek*) and he poureth out of the same; but the dregs (*shemareia*) thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out and drink them," Ps. lxxv. 8. The reader will at once see that none of these words that I have put in brackets can mean unfermented wine. *Shechar*, rendered strong drink, is formed from *shachar*, to be drunken, and is used thirteen times in the Hebrew Bible, and undoubtedly means an intoxicating drink. "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink (*shechar*); that continue until night, till (*yayin*) inflame them," Isa. v. 11. Here *shechar* and *yayin* are used as synonymous terms. "Through strong drink (*shechar*) 'they' are out of the way," Isa. xxviii. 7. *Mimzak* mixed wine, is clearly alcoholic, for it is connected with *yayin* in the passage, "who hath woe?"