

spread over a great part of Europe. Judging from its immediate effects, it was thought to increase life. Hence it was called *Aqua vitae*, or water of life. Had it been named according to its real nature and ultimate effects, it would have been called *Aqua mortis*, water of death, temporal and eternal

Down to the sixteenth century, it continued to be kept exclusively by the apothecary, and its use restricted to medicine. In 1514, Louis XII. of France, gave permission to distil it on a larger scale; and the consequences flowing from this permission, may be gathered from the fact, that, just twenty-two years afterwards, we find Francis I. enacting, that every man convicted of drunkenness, shall, for the first offence, suffer imprisonment, and be fed on bread and water; for the second, private, and for the third, public whipping; and, in the event of being found incorrigible by these means, he shall be afterwards banished, having previously suffered amputation of the ears.

So powerful was its influence to deceive men, and make them call evil good, that Theoricus, as stated in Holinshed's Chronicles, wrote, in the sixteenth century, a treatise upon its wonderful-