

extent the utility of the plan, while faith reposes upon the
that "He is too wise to err, and too good to be unkind." assurance

"Order is heaven's first law, and this confess'd,
Some are, and must be greater than the rest;
More rich, more wise; but who infers from hence
That such are happier, shocks all common sense"

While the possession of wealth lays open to its possessor a large field for the exercise of benevolence, and thus renders accessible the sources of purest pleasure—that pleasure which rebounds upon the bestower from the recipient of his bounty—it is also accompanied with a tremendous responsibility, because of the effects which result from the proper or improper exercise of the influence which it commands. Every man exerts a two-fold influence in his own sphere of operation—the influence of precept and that of example. Of the preceptual influence of the wealthy little requires to be said, because experience proves, that unaccompanied by a corresponding example, the clearest truisms may be enunciated in vain. Precept indeed may be regarded as a dependant which requires the continual assistance of its proper predecessor and superior, a virtuous example. On the contrary, exemplary tuition will rest secure upon its own basis, or proceed by the power of its own volition with the certainty of a good degree of success to the attainment of its desired object.

Let it be assumed then that the influence of every man's example is important—and this modest assumption we think none will deny—then it only requires that we remember, that in proportion to the extent of every man's influence upon society, his example will prove more or less beneficial or injurious, according to its character; and the conclusion is obvious, that each individual whom God has blessed with wealth, and consequently extensive influence, incurs an awful responsibility in presenting to the world an impure example.

In the following pages we purpose shewing that all adherents to the drinking customs of polite society are constantly setting a pernicious example before the members of their own households, and before the world.

The example of such is pernicious because it teaches that those whose opportunities for mental culture have been most numerous—and who consequently should be best prepared to judge—believe the use of intoxicating beverages to be a source of enjoyment. Now all men love pleasure; the mind naturally seeks for it: and if the rich and reputed wise derive pleasure from the use of liquor, the poor and the illiterate will naturally infer that they too may find it in the *flowing bowl and sparkling glass*; and in their pursuit of fancied happiness, many, very many, become the victims of a depraved and imperious appetite. It is generally admitted by the rich that temperance is very necessary for the poor; and some will even condescend to recommend to such the adoption of the principle of total abstinence, all unconscious, perhaps, that the voice of their example swells high above the utterance of their inconsistent pre-