

similar law. In 1536, under Francis I, a law was passed sentencing drunkards to imprisonment on bread and water for the first offence; a public whipping was the punishment for the second, and, for the third, banishment, with the loss of ears. Draco inflicted capital punishment. Lycurgus destroyed the vineyards. The Athenians had officers to prevent excesses in drinking; in Rome the patricians were not allowed the use of wine until they had attained their thirty-fifth year—nevertheless drunkenness was a common vice among the Romans. Amelianus had officers whose duty it was to intoxicate foreign ambassadors. Temperance Societies are not modern institutions. Ligismund de Dietrichstein established one in 1517 under the auspices of St. Christopher.

—*Curiosities of Medical Literature.*

DRUNKENNESS.—When this vice has once taken fast hold of a man, farewell industry, farewell emulation, farewell attention to things worthy of attention, farewell decency of manners, and farewell to even an attention to person, every thing is turned by this predominant and brutal habit. In how many instances do we hear of men who have begun life with the brightest prospects before them, and who have closed it without one ray of comfort and consolation? Young men with good fortunes, good talents, good tempers, good hearts, and sound constitutions, only by being drawn into the vortex of the drunkard, have become, by degrees, the most loathsome and the most despicable of mankind. In the house of the drunkard there is no happiness for any one—all is uncertainty and anxiety; he is not the same man for any one day at a time; no one knows anything of his out-goings and in-comings; when he will rise or when he will lie down to rest is wholly a matter of chance. That which he swallows for what he calls pleasure brings pain; as surely as the night brings morning, poverty and misery are in the train. To avoid these results we are called upon to make no sacrifice—abstinence requires no aid to accomplish it; our own will is all that is requisite, and if we have not the will to avoid contempt, disgrace, and misery, we deserve neither relief nor compassion.—*Cobbett.*

“IS NOT THIS A BRAND PLUCKED OUT OF THE FIRE?”—A plain country man, who had been effectually called, by means of a sermon from this text, was afterwards solicited by an old companion to accompany him to the ale-house; but the good man strongly resisted, saying, “I am a brand plucked out of the fire.” His old companion not under standing this, he explained it to him thus:—“There is a great difference between a brand and a green stick. If a spark flies upon a brand that has been partially burnt, it will soon catch fire again; but it is not so with a green stick. I tell you, I am that brand plucked out of the fire; and I dare not venture into the way of temptation, for fear of being set on fire again.” How wise and safe are those who are concerned to keep out of the way of danger; and how careful should we be that our conduct is strictly consistent with the prayer we have often uttered, “Lord, lead us not into temptation!”

Colonel Freemantle, commanding the Guards at Dublin, prevents intoxication by obliging the delinquent soldiers, guilty of this vice, to wear wooden shoes, an

outré fashion which makes them ashamed to appear out of their barracks.

NECESSITY THE MOTHER OF INVENTION.—A woman was brought up before the Boston Police on Friday, against whom it appeared that she had pinched an infant child black and blue, to afford a pretext to beg rum to wash its bruises!

The Hudson Bay Company's influence on the Indians is reported by the Missionaries to the North West region, to be highly salutary—they have excluded ardent spirits from all those sections where they have exclusive control over the trade.

The flour of barley is deservedly coming into repute as a substitute to that of wheat. Barley well prepared is as palatable for puddings as rice, while for broths or soup it is considered much better. Farmers will find that the least profitable way of disposing of it, is to sell to the distiller.

NECESSARY CONNECTION.—A Tract visiter in Brooklyn, New York, reports:—“My district abounds with grog-shops, Sabbath-breaking, and vice. I visited it last Sabbath, and oh! the scenes of wretchedness, of unmingled misery, of dying, ghastly, despair, and of infernal revelry on God's holy day.”

THE CONSEQUENCE OF WHITE MEN'S EXAMPLE.—The Rev. Mr. Wilson, Missionary to Western Africa, states that one of the natives swallowed down more than a pint of unadulterated New England rum in the course of half an hour, and without being beastly intoxicated.

Poetry.

ABSTINENCE.

Hail! Abstinence, 'tis to thy rules we owe
All pleasures, which from health and strength can flow:
Vigour of body, purity of mind,
Unclouded reason, sentiments refined.

To Abstinence, all our liveliest powers we owe;
She bids the judgment wake, the fancy flow:
Gives to our noblest themes, the studious hour,
When calmly seated in our village tower:
While genius, and calm contemplation, join
To warm the soul with energy divine.

H. E. H.

Would ye extend your narrow span,
And make the most of life you can;
Would you when medicine cannot save
Descend, with ease into the grave;
Calmly retire, like evening light,
And cheerful bid the world good night,
Let Abstinence constantly preside:
Your best physician, friend, and guide.

Would you to wisdom make pretence,
Proud to be thought a man of sense;
Let abstinence (always friend to fame)
With steady hand, direct your aim.
Or, like an archer, in the dark,
Your random shaft will miss the mark.
For they who slight her golden rules
In wisdom's volumes stand for fools.

H. E. H.