

threatened with speedy ruin, and death was recommended as a fitting punishment for this evil.

In ancient Greece and Rome, in Persia and Egypt, wine was made and drunk with the same evil effects as elsewhere. Only in Sparta does total abstinence seem to have been advocated and enforced. To withhold the higher class Spartans from this particular vice, the Helots or slaves were made to drink to intoxication once every year; and the revolting excesses and infuriated actions which resulted from this indulgence, were witnessed by their sober masters with utter disgust and loathing.

In other countries, drunken orgies were indulged in both by men and women, at every conceivable opportunity. Funerals, births, weddings, and celebrations of victories were looked upon as justifiable occasions for excessive indulgence in drink, and the most disgusting and horrible scenes were enacted under its influence.

Tracing up the habits and customs of different nations to more recent times, we find that drinking with its concomitant vices, was very general amongst all classes. The nobles and knights of the Middle Ages were guilty of the greatest infractions of decency in their Bacchanalian revelries. The pen of several literary men of that same period portrayed the evils of the 'inordinate cup.' Even in Shakespeare's writings, the hard drinker was depicted in the personality of the loose, immoral, hard-swearing Falstaff.

Modern times witnessed the formation of temperance societies, as a most effective means of coping with this social problem. The first society on record is that of St. Christopher, founded in Germany in 1517, whose members were pledged to exercise moderation. On this continent, however, the first organization instituted for the purpose of limiting the sale of intoxicants, was formed at Hampton, Long Island, in 1651. Perhaps the principal of the many organizations formed since that date, is the National Women's Christian Temperance Union; affiliated with it are branch organizations in every civilized nation. Its purpose is to educate the young, reform the drinking classes, stimulate public sentiment, and ultimately to secure the abolition of the liquor traffic by legal enactments.

As has been noted, the pioneers of the temperance movement based their arguments on the social, moral and physical effects of alcohol on a community. Within the last seventy years the