

could have determined the result of the discovery upon the morality and prosperity of mankind. It did not really issue from the domain of chemistry till towards the end of the 13th century, when they began in Spain and Italy to sell the spirits of wine, tinctured with certain herbs, as a powerful remedy in various diseases. Later still the Genoese extracted a spirituous liquor from grain. Passing it off as a powerful specific, they sold it in small vials, at a high price, under the name of *aqua vite*, water of life, or *eau de vie*. Till the end of the 16th century, it was considered only as a medicine, and was sold only by the apothecaries. About that time the thought was suggested of furnishing it to miners, who labored in the mines of Hungary, as a preservative against heat and damp. The custom almost at the same time was introduced into Ireland. Among the ordinances of Henry VIII, is one which prohibited more than one manufacturer of spirituous liquors to establish himself in the towns. In the reign of Mary, an act of parliament, which describes a liquor of which it is injurious to drink, and daily to use, prohibits entirely any distilling. We find, however, some years after, the English soldiers, who supported the cause of Holland in the Low Countries, drinking it as a cordial. This is the commencement of the period from which is dated its manufacture on a large scale both in England and on the Continent."

**REFORM IN THE RIGHT QUARTER.**—A large convention of *Stage Proprietors* at Brattleborough, Vt., resolved not to continue in their employment an intemperate driver, and not to employ a driver who had been discharged from any other road for drunkenness. In a communication made to the Secretary of the American Temperance Society, by one of the largest mail contractors in the United States, he says, "We seldom have any accident worthy of notice, that we cannot trace to a glass of spirits, taken, perhaps, to oblige a friend, or a passenger, who has urged the driver to take a little—thus putting his own life, and the lives of his companions in danger, to say nothing of the loss of character and property to us."

Of 895 complaints presented to the police court in Boston in one year, 400 were under the statute against common drunkards. Of 1081 cases of criminal prosecution in a court in North Carolina, more than 800 proceeded from intemperance. Five thousand complaints are made yearly in New York to the city police, of outrages committed by intoxicated persons; and the late city attorney reports, that of twenty-two cases of murder which it had been his duty to examine, every one of them had been committed in consequence of intemperate drinking. "Ninth-tenths of all the prisoners under my care," says Captain Pillsbury, warden of the Connecticut state prison, "are decidedly intemperate men, and were brought to their present condition, directly, or indirectly, through intoxicating liquor. Many have confessed to me with tears, that they never felt tempted to the commission of crime, thus punishable, but when under the influence of strong drink." And the Prison Discipline Report states, that of 125,000 criminals committed to our prisons in a single year, 93,750 were excited to the commission of crime by spirituous liquors."

**CASH VALUE OF TEMPERANCE.**—The value of temperance in its effects upon business and places is beginning to be understood. We see in an advertisement in another column of "a farm for sale," in Walton, Delaware county, that it is put down as one of the recommendations which enhances the value of the property, that no spirituous liquors are kept "by any store or tavern within ten miles" of it. The statement is honourable to the town, and certainly increases the value of every acre of its ground. It insures exemption from burthensome poor rates, and from quarrelsome and miserable neighbours, and insures good neighbourhood, good schools, and a church well supported. So success to Walton, in Delaware county, and to the territory within ten miles of it, and to everybody everywhere not within ten miles of a grog-shop.—*American Journal of Commerce.*

**DOCTOR JOHNSON'S TESTIMONY TO ABSTINENCE FROM WINE.**—"By abstinence from wine and suppers I obtained sudden and great relief, and had freedom of mind restored to me, which I have wanted all this year, without being able to find any means of obtaining it."—*Prayers and Meditations*, page 73.

The following extract is from "*Lacon*;" or, *Many things in few words*.—"Wars are to the body politic what drams are to the individual. There are times when they may prevent a sudden death, but if frequently resorted to, or long persisted in, they heighten the energies only to hasten the dissolution."

"A drunken captain on board the steamer *Rothsay*, sacrificed 350 human lives. The drunken crew of the Steamboat *Ben Sherod*, offered on the shrine of drunkenness 160 more. The drunkenness of the captain of the steamer *Home*, has offered up 95 more human victims on the altar of alcohol; making in the destruction of these three boats only, 605! human lives, every one of which would have probably been spared to their friends, their country, and the world, had these been temperance boats and carried no intoxicating drinks."—*American paper*. [We have some such shipwrecks nearer home, if the truth were known.]

Last year a farmer in Niagara county, New York, instead of making his apples into cider, fattened thirty swine upon them, with the addition of a single bushel of corn per head. Late in the fall, after filling his pork barrels for family use, he sold the remainder for \$600. "All this from my orchard," says he "whereas I never sold my cider for more than \$300 per year."

**THINK OF THIS WINE DRINKERS.**—"In Provence (France) the method of pressing wine is very rude and simple. A man and commonly two or three children pull off their shoes and jump into the vats, where they trample on the grapes, till all the wine is pressed out."—*Doctor Humphrie's Letters*.

## Poetry.

### THE RUM-SELLER REFORMED IN HIS CLOSET.

At evening he retired to pray,  
And kneeling low, began to say:  
"Our Father, still in heaven the same,  
Hallowed be thy glorious name—"  
When Conscience, rising in his breast,  
The prostrate suppliant thus addressed:  
"To-day you sold that rum, for gain,  
Which made your neighbor so profane;  
And now, perhaps, with poisoned breath,  
He scatters firebrands, arrows, death!  
Can, then, your heart one wish afford,  
That his great name should be adored?"  
Although convicted, almost dumb,  
He still proceeds, "Thy kingdom come"—  
Again does the reprover rise:  
The monitor within replies:  
"You still pursue that deadly craft—  
Still vend the soul-destroying draught,  
Which so obstructs that kingdom's course,  
And adds to sin and Satan's force!  
How dare you now pretend to plead  
That heavenly kingdom to succeed?"  
Still venturing on, once more he said:  
"Give us each day our daily bread—"  
"What! while your bins and bags contain,  
Exchanged for rum, the poor man's grain!  
Or in your till the price is laid  
Which should have bought his children bread?"  
His soul with keen conviction stung,  
With struggling heart and faltering tongue,  
He cries: "Forgive! grant me salvation!  
And henceforth keep me from temptation;  
Nor any longer will I lay  
Temptation in my neighbour's way;  
What thus is gained, when understood,  
Is seen to be the price of blood.  
I'd rather dig, or beg, or serve,  
Yea, henceforth sooner will I starve,  
Rather than once again to stain  
My hand with such unrighteous gain!"  
Arising calmly, from his knees,  
His heart approved, and all was peace.

O. X. C.

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