

The *drum seller* stood by, and as he saw what a wreck he had caused the wife, and the death he had been instrumental in bringing about, he shrugged his shoulders: and when, for the moment, conscience was about to gain the ascendancy, he consoled himself with the reflection, "This is a free country; if I don't sell whisky somebody else will."

The wife of the drunkard soon followed her babe to the tomb. Neglect and disappointment had frozen up life's warm current. Again the grave-yard gate was opened, and another victim was laid in the tomb; and above her grave was written the inscription, "*Murdered by the grog-shop-keeper.*" But was the husband yet reformed? It was thought by his neighbors that he might have been, had not the whisky vender whispered in his ear, "come, taste a little to drown your sorrows."

A few weeks had passed away. November had come and gone; the green foliage was stripped from the forest; the bleak hills were covered with snow. Cold December had passed; the northern blast was sweeping through the land; the cattle stood trembling in the barn-yard; and men ventured forth only when protected by the warmest clothing from the cold blast, for all abroad was winter; and the frost blew thick in the atmosphere, and the sun was hid behind a bank of clouds. The heavy blows of the grave-digger were heard in the burying-ground. The strokes fell quick and fast, and soon the ground was opened. A few men approached with hurried step, and let down into the earth the coffin. Soon the little mound marked the spot where lay the remains of the drunkard; whilst "*Murdered by the grog-shop-keeper*" is his only epitaph. He filled a drunkard's and a suicide's grave.

The few who attended the funeral ceremonies had hastened away. I drew my cloak around me and sought out the grog-shop-keeper. I expostulated with him in regard to the effect of his business. I warned him to beware how he violated the command of God "Thou shalt not kill." But it was all in vain; for the state had more influence than I could have; and, as he replied, "I am authorised by the state to sell; I pay for the privilege; my family must be supported," I turned and left him.

But, for a moment, my mind ran back to the grave-yard. I saw that many tombs bore the drunkard's inscription.—Rapidly I passed through time to the final scene—the judgment bar of God. I wondered, in my mind, what would be the feelings of the grocer-keeper then, when called to meet those whom he had ruined in time—when the cries of the orphan would ring in his ears—when wives would charge him with their wrongs, and poor drunkards with their ruin. I then looked after him as he sunk in the pit—but soon turned from the horrid scene. I looked long enough, however, to see that the distiller, and the man who had ploughed God's footstool to desecrate its fruits in the manufacture of alcoholic drinks, and the legislator who encouraged its sale by enacting license laws, and the citizen who consented to the crime were there.—*Christian Advocate.*

#### ON THE USE AND ABUSE OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS, IN HEALTH AND DISEASE.

Prize Essay by W. B. CARPENTER, M.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., etc. London, Charles Gilpin.

We confess to have looked forward with some degree of anxiety to the appearance of this work. The carefully worded syllabus issued when the prize of 100 guineas was announced, seemed to us to involve the discussion of the most disputed points of the temperance question. There can be no doubt but the generous donor of the prize had this specially in view when he made known his purpose to the world, and now we have the result before us in this production of one of the most learned physiologists of our time. For the information of our readers we shall first give the

questions to which answers were to be returned by those who competed for the prize:—

"1st. What are the effects, corporeal and mental, of alcoholic liquors on the healthy human system?"

"2nd. Does physiology or experience teach us that alcoholic liquors should form part of the ordinary sustenance of man, particularly under circumstances of exposure to severe labor or to extremes of temperature? Or on the other hand, is there reason for believing that such use of them is not sanctioned by the principles of science or the results of practical observation?"

"3rd. Are there any special modifications of the bodily or mental condition of man, short of actual disease, in which the occasional or habitual use of alcoholic liquors may be necessary or beneficial?"

"4th. Is the employment of alcoholic liquors necessary in the practice of medicine? If so, in what disease, or in what forms and stages of disease is the use of them necessary or beneficial?"

The conclusions to which our author is conducted by the line of arguments which he adopts, are stated as follows by himself:—

"In the first place—That from scientific examination of the *modus operandi* of alcohol upon the human body, when taken in a *poisonous* dose, or to such an extent as to produce intoxication, we may fairly draw inferences with regard to the specific effects which it is likely to produce, when repeatedly taken in excess, but not to an immediately-fatal amount.

"Secondly. That the consequence of the excessive use of alcoholic liquors, as proved by the experience of the medical profession, universally admitted by medical writers, being precisely such as fatal doses would lead us to anticipate, we are further justified in expecting that the habitual use of smaller quantities of these liquors if sufficiently prolonged, will ultimately be attended in a large proportion of cases, with consequences prejudicial to the human system; the morbid actions thus engendered being likely rather to be chronic than acute in their character.

"Thirdly. That as such morbid actions are actually found to be among the most common disorders of persons advanced in life, who have been in the habit of taking a 'moderate' allowance of alcoholic liquors, there is very strong ground for regarding them as in a great degree dependent on the ascertained cause; although the long postponement of their effects may render it impossible to demonstrate the existence of such a connexion.

"Fourthly. That the preceding conclusion is fully borne out by the proved results of the 'moderate' use of alcoholic liquors in producing a marked liability to the acute forms of similar diseases in hot climates, where their action is accelerated by other conditions; and also by the analogous facts now universally admitted in regard to the remotely injurious effects of slight excess in diet, imperfect aeration of the blood, insufficient repose and other like violations of the laws of health when habitually practised through a long period of time.

"Fifthly. That the capacity of the healthy human system to sustain as much bodily or mental labor as it can be legitimately called upon to perform, and its power of resisting the extremes of heat and cold, as well as other depressing agencies, are not augmented by the use of alcoholic liquors; but that on the other hand, their use, under such circumstances, tends positively to the impairment of that capacity.

"Sixthly. That where there is a deficiency of power on the part of the system to carry on its normal actions with the energy and regularity which constitute health, such power